

CD-ROM Today

Issue 9 January 1995

Explore!



Future
PUBLISHING
Your guarantee of value

A world of information
at your fingertips, with
multimedia atlases.

No Limits

From dinosaurs to
ballet, from sharks
to jokes – they're
all on CD, and
they're all in
CD-ROM Today!

• Cinemania '95 is brilliant!

• Games galore – the best new discs

• Visit the *real* Jurassic Park

• £3,000 worth of prizes up for grabs!

GO! Disc details:
back cover!

Quick start

We head into the new year with a wealth of wonderful discs. There's something for everyone in this issue, from culture buffs to geography students! And if you get bored with atlases, take a journey into the past to the land of dinosaurs, or try out a few jokes...



30 Cinemania '95

A feast for the senses, and a never-ending delight for anyone interested in movies. Could this film guide be the best thing ever?



34 Under a Killing Moon

"It's not just a game" say the makers, "it's an interactive movie". Is it? And what's all this interactive movie malarkey, anyway? We take an in-depth look at this long-awaited new release.



38 The Bolshoi

The most famous ballet in the world, brought to your computer screens courtesy of a new CD-ROM. It explores the Bolshoi's performances of six famous ballets, with plenty of exciting video footage.

PC multimedia is the hottest property in computing today, and this is the perfect place to explore it...

Welcome to our magazine!



▲ Matthew Richards, Editor

It's a year now since we started work on *CD-ROM Today*, and it's simply flown by. At the beginning, we planned a bi-monthly magazine, but such was the interest that we went monthly on the second issue. It's been a huge success story with sales spreading across the world, all the way to Australia and New Zealand. So far, we've been improving the formula, but keeping the format pretty much the same.

But now it's time for a big change. We're very strong on reader feedback here at Future – after all, we want to make sure we give you exactly what you want. We always knew the PC had the lion's share of interest, but we've been surprised at just how overwhelming it's been.

So here's the plan! From now on, *CD-ROM Today* will devote 100 percent of its coverage to PC multimedia. You'll get the same great reviews, news, features, and coverdiscs, but everything will be exclusively geared to PC people.

Even if you're a Mac owner, *CD-ROM Today* will keep you in touch with the multimedia scene. But for dedicated coverage, you might like to check out our sister publication, *Mac Format*, with strengthened multimedia coverage in its CD edition.

But for now, on with the explosion of PC multimedia. Read on and see why it took the biggest computer show in the world by storm this year...

Matthew

Matthew Richards
Editor



52 3D World Atlas

This brilliant new disc from Electronic Arts kicks off our feature on Atlases, promising 'unique multimedia exhibits', along with 'multi-dimensional imagery and navigation'. But what does that mean? Damien Noonan reveals all.



70 Microsoft Dinosaurs

An enduringly popular topic for multimedia productions, dinosaurs will always remain a firm favourite with younger members of the family. Microsoft's definitive effort leads our analysis of a very varied selection of titles.



87 Saturday Night Live

How does this new double-disc 20th anniversary extravaganza stand up against previous attempts to bring comedy to CD-ROM?



102 US Navy Fighters

This outstanding combat-based flight simulator heads up our games section this month. It looks wonderful... it plays perfectly... it's amazing!

Our writers



Matthew Richards

Steady as a rock, our editor Matthew Richards produced the excellent *CD-ROM Today* coverdisc, as per usual, then zipped off to the Comdex show held in Las Vegas.



Jon Smith

Jon is not only a crackshot games reviewer, but he's also our deputy editor. This month he turned his attention to entertainment with reviews of *Cinemanian '95* and four comedy discs.



Garrick Webster

Returning from a busman's holiday, Garrick came in and did the news section again, learned to speak French (almost), and filled his head with swirling sounds and colours in *Headcandy*.



Rachel Harrison

Rachel's had a dangerous time, this month. She's wrestled with *Sharks*, and dug up some of the dark secrets of the CIA.



Damien Noonan

Author of *101 CD-ROM Essentials*, the book we brought to you last month, Damien certainly gets around in the multimedia world. This month he wrote our main review feature on CD-ROM Atlases.



Andy Storer

This month freelancer Andy, former editor of two computer magazines, turns his vast multimedia experience to the task of reviewing three discs on dinosaurs.



Andy Dyer

Usually to be found editing games mag *Total*, Andy's spared some of his valuable time to play yet more games. It's a hard life!

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Buyer's Guide

<i>Complete CD Disc Guide</i>	119
<i>With ratings for all the discs we've ever reviewed.</i>	

30 Cinemanian '95

Star of the silver screen, Microsoft is back with its enormous CD-ROM resource entirely devoted to the history of cinema. We review it.



34 Under A Killing Moon

Uncovering 21st century blood cults is all in a day's work for Tex Murphy, sleuthing star of this long-awaited adventure game.



52 3D Atlas

Electronic Arts presents an exploration of the planet, with shaded 3D topography, video documentaries and stacks of statistics.



54 World Atlas

The newest multimedia global atlas from Software Toolworks is thoroughly tested.

Reviews

Cinemanía '95 _____ 30
Microsoft's fabulous reference work all about films.

Under A Killing Moon _____ 34
Is the latest CD-ROM mystery game fun or a flop?

The Bolshoi _____ 38
Dance through a history of Russia's premier ballet school.

The New Dictionary of the Living World _____ 41
A compendium of facts on plants and animals.

3D Atlas _____ 52
The newest and jazziest atlas of the world from EA.

The Software Toolworks World Atlas _____ 54
All the maps and stats from around the globe.

CNN Newsroom Global View _____ 56
The cable TV giants take you around the world.

The Cities Below _____ 58
Zoom in on any town in America with this aerial atlas.

Gahan Wilson's Haunted House _____ 63
Giggles are guaranteed with this ghostly game for the kids.

I Speak French _____ 64
Allons-y! Learn French the way you learned your mother tongue.

Headcandy _____ 66
Feed your mind with a full helping of Brian Eno's weirdness.

Microsoft Dinosaurs _____ 70
The multimedia escape to prehistoric times.

3D Dinosaur Adventure _____ 72
Take your kids to a dinosaur theme park on CD-ROM.

Dinosaurs! The Multimedia Encyclopedia _____ 76
A worldwide exploration of the biggest of lizards.

It's all Relative _____ 83
Loads and loads of laughs on the whole family.

Funny _____ 84
Have a hoot with a CD-ROM full of timeless gags.

Saturday Night Live _____ 87
The New York-based comedy supremos go multimedia.

A Million Laughs _____ 88
Now you can have your own database packed with jokes.

Sharks! _____ 93
Swim the depths with the most successful predators ever.

CIA The Secret Files _____ 94
Are they defenders of the free world, or paranoid psychopaths?

US Navy Fighters _____ 102
A fighting flight simulator full of shooting action.

Creature Shock _____ 104
Your chance to kill dangerous alien life-forms.

Armored Fist _____ 109
Tanks, bristling with armaments. And more tanks.

Retribution _____ 111
Take vengeance on alien scum in this shoot-'em-up.

Cyclemania _____ 112
Rev up your engine and hit the high road on your motorbike.

72 3D Dinosaur Adventure

Big, bad, and thankfully extinct, dinosaurs burst into life with Knowledge Adventure's award-winning educational CD-ROM for kids.



87 Saturday Night Live

From the Big Apple, and now on CD-ROM. Catch up with the latest loony humour from the US.

6 Double Disc Guide

This month we're bringing you two discs. Both of them are stuffed full of demos for you to try out. So don't hesitate, go straight to the disc pages to get the details in full on everything on the discs. You'll also find friendly instructions on how to use them.

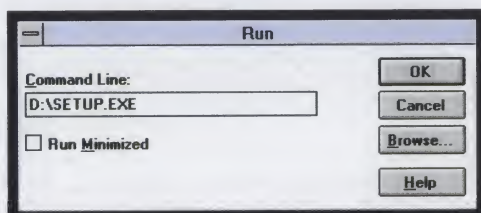


Disc Guide

With the Microsoft Home Sampler disc, you can preview more than 55 titles, and play eight complete Windows games. **Matthew Richards** shows you how to get started.

Quick Start

Setting up the Microsoft Home CD-ROM sampler is very straightforward. The disc's setup procedure creates a sub-directory on your hard disk and installs the necessary



Quick-starting the Microsoft Home Sampler... Just select 'File' from the Windows Program Manager menu, then select 'Run'. Use 'Browse' to select the SETUP.EXE file on the CD-ROM, then simply double-click the new icon...

files. It will also create a new program group and icons on your Windows desktop.

With Windows running, insert the disc in your CD-ROM drive. In the Windows Program Manager, select RUN... from the FILE menu. Enter D:\SETUP.EXE (where D: is your CD-ROM drive), and click the OK button to continue.

The default sub-directory name for the installation is C:\MSHOME but you can enter a different name if you want to. After clicking the Install button on the next screen, you'll also be given a choice of whether you want to place the icons in an existing program group, or create a new one.

Following this, the program checks to ensure you have sufficient hard disk space (you'll need about 2Mb), and then carries out the rest of the installation.

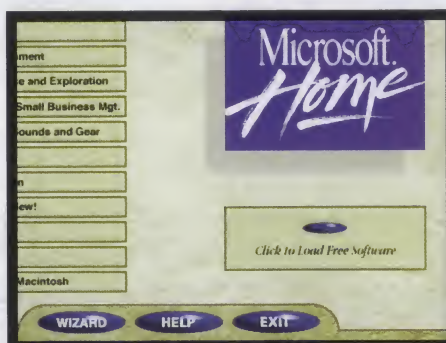
If you want to make changes to the installation later, or remove it, simply re-run the Setup program. You can do this, either by using the Windows FILE, RUN... pull-down menu and selecting the SETUP.EXE program again, or simply by double-clicking the Sampler Setup icon.

Further information on the disc is given in the Sampler Read Me file.

Installing the Games

Once you've installed the main CD Sampler program, you can run it to install the eight free Windows games in the Custom Entertainment Pack. In the main Category screen, click the button labelled 'Click to Load Free Software'. This will install the games on your hard disk, in a sub-directory named D:\EP.

You'll need about 2Mb of free hard disk space for the games, and the installation routine will automatically create a new program group in Windows, called Custom Entertainment Pack. A separate icon for each game will be placed in the new group, and you can double-click any of these to launch the games you want to run.



▲ Once you've installed the main CD Sampler program and run it, you'll notice a blue button under the Microsoft Home logo. This is for installing the eight free Windows games.

How to run video clips

To run video clips, you'll need Video for Windows. The setup routine checks to see whether you have Video for Windows on your system already, and if you don't, it will automatically install a runtime edition of version 1.1. For best results when viewing video clips, Windows should be set to 256 colours at a screen resolution of 640x480 pixels. If you're not sure about the screen setup, refer to your Windows handbook.



Microsoft CD Sampler



With titles like *Encarta*, *Cinemania*, and *Art Gallery*, Microsoft has built up a reputation for top quality, wide ranging multimedia production.

Exclusive to *CD-ROM Today*, the Microsoft CD Sampler gives you the chance to preview more than 55 existing and forthcoming titles released by the company's consumer division, Microsoft Home. Floppy-based programs are covered as well as CD-ROM discs.

The simple point and click interface divides the sampler into a number of categories, like education, sports, kids, entertainment, reference, and so on. Entries are also cross-linked, so it's easy to find similar titles in your particular area of interest. See how the disc works on the following page.

System requirements

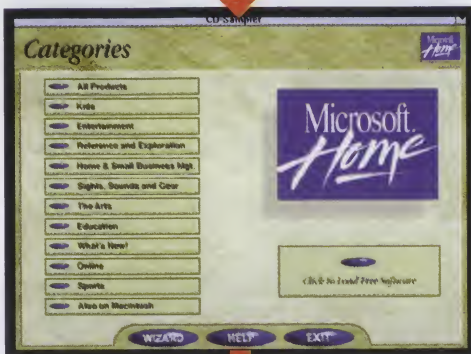
(minimum hardware)
386DX33, 4Mb memory, CD-ROM drive, Windows compatible sound card, 256-colour SVGA screen, mouse, and Windows 3.1x

Disclaimer

We carry out exhaustive tests of all the demo software given to us by suppliers for inclusion on the disc. This includes installing and re-installing the software on a wide range of PCs. If there is anything we're not happy about, we simply don't carry the demo. However, we must point out that you use the cover disc at your own risk and that Future Publishing cannot be held responsible for any loss of data.

Sampling Microsoft's consumer line-up...

The home screen of the Microsoft CD sampler arranges all the titles neatly into categories. Simply click the All Products button, or choose something a little more specific.



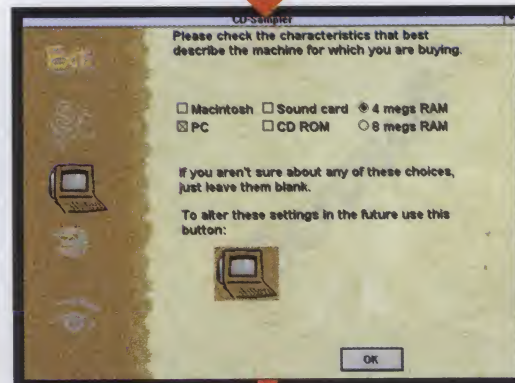
I wanted to see everything, so I greedily clicked on All Products. Here's the first screen with icons of what's on offer. Click any you like the look of, or use the arrow at the bottom right to go to the next screen.



It's all pretty straightforward, but if you feel the need for a little help, just click the Help button. These annotations pop up in yellow boxes to give information on all the active parts of the screen. Click again to turn them off.



Browsing, and casually meandering around the 55 or so titles is all very well, but what if you want to search the system for something particular that you have in mind. It's easy, read on...

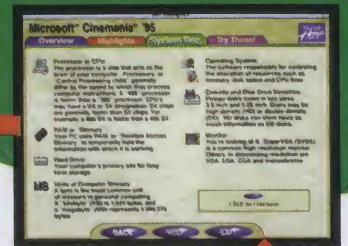


A Wizard is on hand to help you find exactly what you're looking for. You can enter criteria based on cost, category, age range, and so on, and the Wizard will do the rest, popping a selection of matching titles up on the screen.

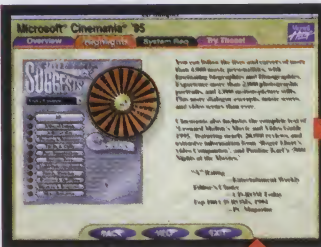


Clicking one of the icons on the screen leads you to more information on any of the titles.

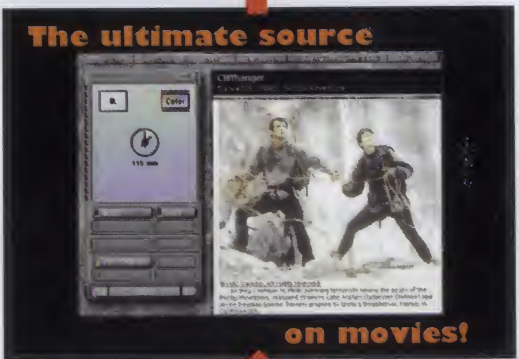
Here are the related titles for Cinemania '95, supplied by the Try These button.



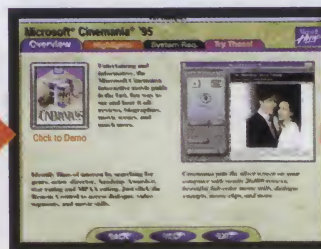
System Req. is well worth checking, just to make sure you'll be able to run the discs.



The Highlights folder is a handy place to look for quick and easy details on a program.



The big squarish button at the top left of the screen launches an in-depth rolling demo of the current title, like this one for Cinemania '95.



All the details, facts and figures are arranged in folders, so it's simple to find your way round.

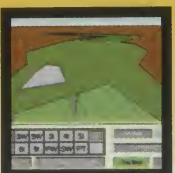
Time for a little light refreshment? Here are those eight free games...



Dr Black Jack



Rodent's Revenge



Fuji Golf



JigSawed



Life Genesis



Rattler Race



Chess



Ski Free

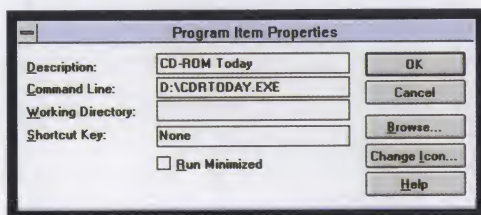
Continued overleaf

Disc Guide

From now on, our coverdiscs are 100 per cent PC. As well as our Microsoft CD Sampler, we have a full 650Mb disc, with all the best new demos. **Matthew Richards** leads the way...

Windows Quick Start

If you've used one of our coverdiscs before and still have a *CD-ROM Today* icon on your Windows desktop, you can use it to launch this disc as well.



Quick-starting the coverdisc on the PC... Just select 'File' from the Windows Program Manager menu, then select 'New'. Use 'Browse' to select the CDRTODAY.EXE file, then simply double-click the new icon...

If this is your first *CD-ROM Today* disc, insert it, and from the Windows 3.1 Program Manager, select NEW... from the FILE menu. Choose NEW PROGRAM ITEM and enter the details shown above (where D: is your CD-ROM drive).

You'll notice a bit of Windows silliness when you click OK in the dialog box. A message suggests that the CD-ROM is on a network path, and that the file may not be available later. This just means you can't run the program unless the disc is in the drive. When the prompt asks if you want to continue, simply click the Yes button.

This creates a new icon that you can double-click to launch *CD-ROM Today*. The icon will be placed in the program group that you were in when you ran the FILE, NEW... command. If you would rather have the icon in a different group, simply select it with the mouse, and holding the left button down, drag it to another group.

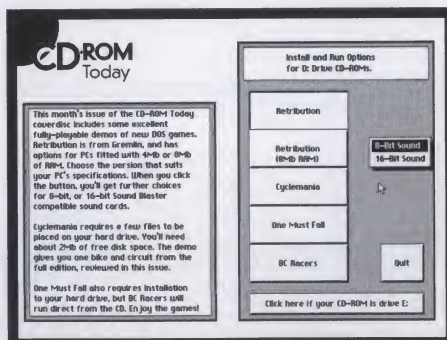
You can also copy the icon file (CDRTODAY.ICO) to your hard drive and then select it with the change icon option. This means that Windows won't lose the icon picture if you change screen resolution or colour depth later on.

DOS Quick Start

We've tried to make installing and running DOS demos as simple as possible, with our specially designed front end. At the DOS prompt of your CD-ROM drive (normally drive D:) just type GO, then press the Return key on your keyboard.

A menu screen will appear on the screen with buttons for choosing the various DOS demos. There are two pages in the menu; one for CD-ROM drives set as drive D: and the other for drives set as E:.

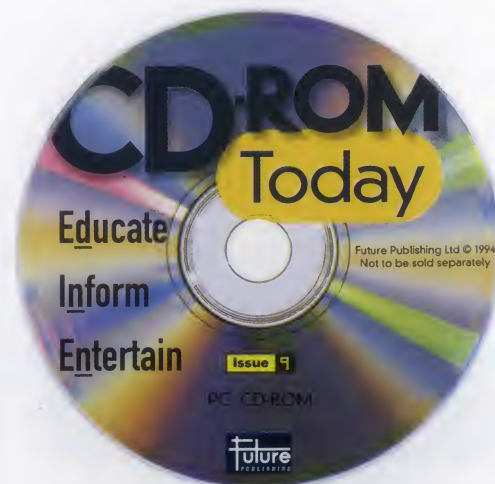
Some DOS programs will run directly from the disc, while others might need a few files to be installed on your hard disk. In this case, there will be a pop-up menu for Install and Run choices. Choose Install first to set the program up, then you can use the Run option next time around.



▲ To run the DOS menu system, type GO at the prompt of your CD-ROM drive, normally D:

How to run video clips

To watch the disc's video files, you'll need Video for Windows. If you don't have it, use the run-time version stored on the Microsoft Sampler CD. To set it up, select RUN from your Windows FILE menu, and launch SETUP.EXE in the root directory of the Microsoft disc. For best results, set your screen to 640 x 480 pixels with 256 colours. If you're not sure how to do this, refer to the instructions for your VGA card.



CD-ROM Today program



The *CD-ROM Today* program divides the disc into colour-coded sections. Click the button for the section you're interested in, and you'll be given information on this month's programs and demos.

You'll be able to install or run most of the Windows software straight from the *CD-ROM Today* program by clicking the appropriate buttons. If you have memory constraints, or you find there are palette problems and the display colours are wrong, the following pages give details on running programs manually, from the Windows Program Manager.

For DOS demos, we've also included a DOS interface on the disc. The instructions are set out in the middle column of this page, just to the left.

System requirements

(minimum hardware)
386SX, 4Mb memory, CD-ROM drive, Windows compatible sound card, 256-colour SVGA screen, mouse, and Windows 3.1x

Disclaimer

We carry out exhaustive tests of all the demo software given to us by suppliers for inclusion on the disc. This includes installing and re-installing the software on a wide range of PCs. If there is anything we're not happy about, we simply don't carry the demo. However, we must point out that you use the cover disc at your own risk and that Future Publishing cannot be held responsible for any loss of data.



▲ Learn Your PC has four sections of multimedia guides with Novice, Advanced and Expert modes.

Learn Your PC (Win)

This disc is designed to give real benefits to anyone wanting to understand more about the PC. Designed by Optical Systems, the program incorporates a multimedia training course and encyclopedia aimed at three levels of expertise – Novice, Advanced, and Expert. There's something for everyone.

Our interactive demo version includes a vast selection from the full edition. The main sections include PC Basics, Software, Hardware, and a Glossary of Terms.

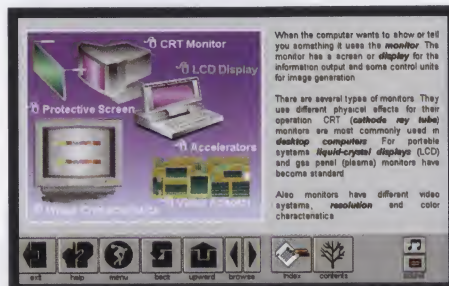
A simple point and click interface makes it easy to find your way around, and there's a simple toolbar at the bottom of the screen for quick control of the program.

Each of the sections is divided into many smaller parts, for example, Software includes Application Packages,

Programming Languages, System software and PC Firmware. Each section contains many working modules from the full program, complete with narration and animated sequences to get the points across.

Hypertext links make short work of looking up related items, or getting more detail on individual topics.

The Glossary is particularly helpful, with a mine of information on all those tricky PC terms. Things are explained in plain English in a text box, and more boxes

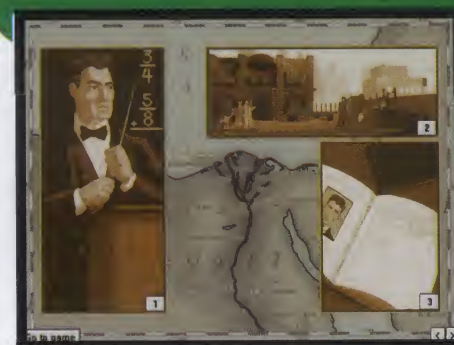


▲ Navigation is simple with a point and click interface, toolbar along the bottom of the screen, and a sprinkling hypertext links.

give full details of alternative names and related terms.

You can install *Learn Your PC* straight from the *CD-ROM Today* program, or by running the file SETUP.EXE in the LRN_PC sub-directory.

CD-ROM Systems (☎ 01293 525271)



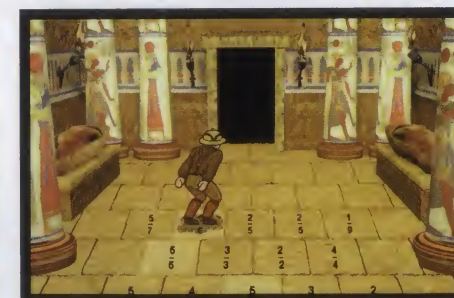
▲ Memphis Math brings an imaginative adventure story to the dry world of numbers in this children's maths tutor.

Memphis Math (Win)

If you have a head for numbers, you'll probably enjoy maths. But for kids who don't take to it naturally, maths can be a real problem. *Memphis Math* puts the element of fun into learning by setting puzzles into the context of an Egyptian adventure of exploration. Our demo version gives you an overview of the story, and invites you to pit your wits in a game of quick thinking at one of the historic locations.

You can install and run the demo from the *CD-ROM Today* program, but if you have problems, use the Windows File, Run... menu and select INSTALL.EXE in the MEMPHIS sub-directory to set up a program group and icon on your desktop.

Novell (☎ 01344 724000)



▲ Answer the puzzles correctly and help the explorer make it to the next level.

Continued overleaf ►

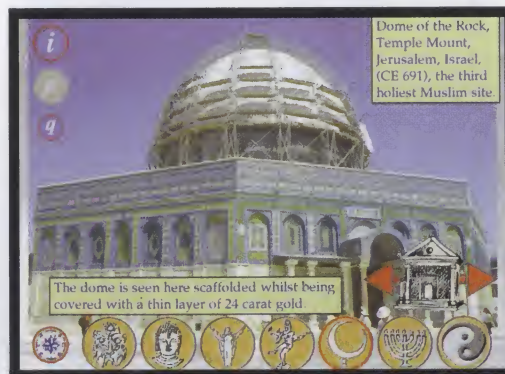
Sources of Faith (Win)

This new title from KimTec UK provides a wealth of information and background on world religions.

The full version covers Animism, Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, and Taoism. Our interactive demo features the complete section on



▲ Sources of Faith takes an in-depth look at all the major world religions. Our demo features the complete section on Islam.



▲ Photographs, diagrams, and illustrations complement the text of Sources of Faith and fill out the generous amount of information.

Islam. Click the Crescent Moon and choose from the eight sections by moving the mouse to the appropriate icon. You can install the demo from the *CD-ROM Today* program, or by running SETUP.EXE in the SOURCES sub-directory.

KimTec UK (☎ 01202 888873)



Paper Planes (Win)



▲ High-tech multimedia comes to the humble art of making paper planes. Our demo includes full instructions on making one of the models.

Here's a new disc from the *WordPerfect Main Street* collection that brings the full force of multimedia technology to the ancient and simple art of making paper planes. In a concerted effort to take itself seriously, the disc tackles all sorts of aviation technicalities, like angle of attack, centre of lift, dihedral angle, and the like.

Wrath of the Gods (Win)

This role-playing adventure game includes strikingly inventive, if rather bizarre, use of video and sound. It's set in ancient Greece amid the lore of legend, but that doesn't stop the mariners speaking with broad West Country accents.

The video clips feature talking heads which are superimposed on immobile graphics of bodies, which might seem strange, but the whole effect adds more than a little charm to the game.

On the disc, we have a 50Mb fully-playable demo of the game, which you can install from the *CD-ROM Today* program, or by running the SETUP.EXE file in the SETUP sub-directory of the disc.



▲ Wrath of the Gods is a quirky adventure game loosely based on ancient Greek legend.

Our interactive demo includes full, step by step instructions for building one of the gliders. The model type is a 'flatbed' design which is supposed to be ideal for both indoor and outdoor flight – you'll have to let us know how you get on!

To see the instructions, simply click the picture labelled Gliders on the screen, then click the See & Do button. There are also rolling demo and preview modes available for further information.

A glossary of terms in the See & Do section, explaining all the tech talk, makes you an instant expert on principles of flight, and the Flight Path option gives a simple animated sequence of how your model should perform.

To install *Paper Planes*, click the install button for the demo in the *CD-ROM Today* program. Alternatively, you can use the File, Run... pull-down menu in Windows and select the SETUP.EXE file in the PPLANES sub-directory of the disc. Like *Memphis Math*, this WordPerfect title is handled by Novell in the UK.

Novell (☎ 01344 724000)



▲ The toolbar at the bottom right gives access to all the control features you'll need in the game.

You'll notice that the installation routine creates a new program group and additional icons for self-running and 20Mb interactive demos. However, to save space, we've only included the main demo.

Here's how to play the game. A toolbar gives mouse click access to the different functions, like walking, talking and looking. The purse-type thingie shows you what's in your inventory, and the down arrow at the right hand side of the toolbar displays a further set of options, including info, map and set-up. If you get stuck, you can ask the Oracle for help, but her advice doesn't come cheap and you'll be docked a few points for each tip. To quit the game, click the set-up icon and select the Quit Game option.

Maxis (☎ 0171 490 2333)



▲ All the titles listed in the CD Direct Catalogue are categorised for easy reference.

CD Direct Catalogue (Win)

The *CD Direct Catalogue* gives you a complete database of the company's current product range, including UK prices. It's all been done in *Claris FileMaker Pro* for Windows and a run-time version is included on the disc.

The database includes powerful search and browse features, and titles are arranged in a wide range of categories. These include applications, entertainment, films, reference, lifestyle, education, shareware, and many more.

Order codes are given for each of the titles in CD Direct's range, as well as instructions for placing orders by phone, fax, or e-mail.

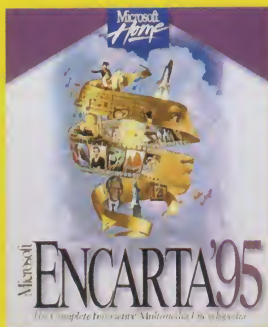
To install the catalogue on your hard disk, you can simply click the Install button in the relevant screen of the *CD-ROM Today* program. You can also use the Windows File, Run... pull-down menu in Program Manager and select the SETUP.EXE file in the CDDCAT sub-directory of the CD.

While the catalogue is very comprehensive, it also takes up a lot of space on your hard disk. You'll need to make sure you have at least 17Mb of free space on your drive. However, after installation, you don't need to have the CD in the drive to run the program.

PDQ (☎ 0121 625 3377)



▲ Finding your way around the catalogue is easy with a few clicks on the pictorial icons.



Give your *corpus* callosum *a good* workout.



Microsoft® Encarta™ '95 for Windows™ condenses 28 volumes of an encyclopaedia onto a single CD and features over nine million words; 26,000 articles and 15,000 multimedia elements. This award-winning title contains stunning animations; video clips; maps; charts; sounds and pictures which, quite literally, bring information to life! No other encyclopaedia feeds your mind in so many quick, intuitive ways. If you've never experienced Encarta before, you'll find it so easy to use that your thirst for knowledge will just grow and grow.

What's more, if you already have Encarta and want to upgrade to the revised '95 version (featuring the latest in world events, a new PinPointer to find information even faster, new activities, and yet more multimedia elements) you can get £30 cashback by using the voucher in the box. So take you and your family on a journey of discovery and learning – via your nearest software retailer. To find the one nearest you, simply telephone 0734 270000 and ask for Brochureline.

Microsoft®

A Macintosh version is scheduled to be available February 1995. ®™ Microsoft, Encarta, and Windows are registered trademarks or trademarks of Microsoft Corporation in the United States and/or other countries.

ENCARTA '95. *The interactive multimedia encyclopaedia on CD-ROM*

Retribution (DOS)



▲ Save the human race from a hideous and ingenious enemy in this futuristic sci-fi adventure game of inter-galactic proportions.

Retribution is a sci-fi adventure set in the future golden age of humankind. But just as everybody is thinking that things had never been better, a chance discovery reveals how the earthlings have been cruelly misled and hoodwinked. The entire existence of the human race has been placed in jeopardy, and it's time for retribution.

The fully-playable demo of this exciting new game from Gremlin features

some stunning graphic effects, and you'll soon be informed of the whole sorry saga.

The gameplay itself puts you in control of a revolutionary space combat craft. Your mission is to destroy the enemy tankers before they can take off on their mission.

You don't need to install anything to your hard disk to play the game. We've set up common configurations in our DOS menu system for PCs with 4Mb or 8Mb of memory, and 8-bit or 16-bit Sound Blaster compatible sound cards. To run any of these combinations, type GO at the DOS prompt of your CD-ROM drive (normally D:) and press Enter. Choose the combination that best suits your PC.

If you're feeling more adventurous, here are options you can choose by entering the following at the DOS prompt in the RETSHOW sub-directory of the disc. For a PC with 8Mb of RAM, a Sound Blaster Pro compatible 16-bit sound card, and joystick: RETDEMO8 JOYSTICK SB16 SBAUTO

For a PC with 4Mb of memory, an 8-bit sound card and default mouse control: RETDEMO4 SB8 SBAUTO



▲ A chance discovery brings realisation that the entire future of the human race is in jeopardy.

Here are the control keys for the game:

Speed	1-9 (+/- for fine tuning)
Afterburner	Tab
Target	T
Missile Select	Enter
Release Chaff	C
Map	M
Change View	F1, F2, F3, F4
Joystick/Mouse	F8
Detail Level	F10
Pause	Backspace
Quit Mission	Esc
To quit demo, switch off the PC.	

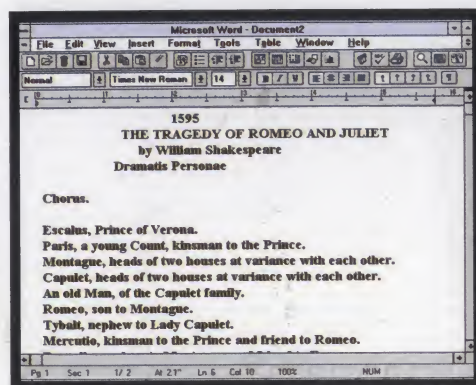
Gremlin (☎ 0114 275 3423)

Shakespeare (Win & DOS)

Continuing our electronic bookshelf theme, this month we have a selection of shakespeare plays and sonnets on the disc. They were compiled by our sister magazine in the United States, and are stored as plain text files in the SHAKESPR sub-directory.

To access these texts, you can use almost any DOS or Windows based word processor with a plain text import filter. They nearly all have one.

The selection of works include *All's Well That Ends Well*, *A Comedy of Errors*, *Julius Caesar*, *King Lear*, *The Merchant of Venice*, *Macbeth*, *Othello*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *Twelfth Night*, and many more.



▲ Open the texts from our huge Shakespeare collection with your word processor.

One Must Fall (DOS)



▲ One of the biggest shareware games ever, *One Must Fall* is like *Gladiators* for robots.

One Must Fall is a new floppy disk-based multimedia game from Epic MegaGames. It's one of the biggest shareware games ever released, normally coming on two high-density disks.

The game is set in a fantasy future where *Gladiators*-style contests are fought by giant robots under your control.

To install the game, type GO at the DOS prompt of your CD-ROM drive (normally D:) and click the *One Must Fall* button in our DOS menu system. Now select the Install option in the pop-up menu.

In the installation routine, choose option 1 to install the game to an OMF sub-directory of your hard drive. When prompted to insert disk 2, just press a key to continue. After the files have finished copying, choose whether or not you want to

read the instructions, then select 2 from the main menu to exit the install routine.

To run the game, simply select the Run option from our menu. The first time you play, you'll have the choice to set up your sound card.

There are a number of pilots and robots to choose from in the game, all with different strengths and weaknesses, but not all of them are available until you register the game.

One Must Fall has one-player and two-player options with keyboard and joystick control. For the key configurations, click Configuration and look up Player 1 and Player 2 Inputs. For single players, the default selection is cursor keys for movement, Enter for punch, and Right Shift for kick.

Epic MegaGames (☎ 01767 260903)



▲ Quick reflexes and the killer instinct are what you need to succeed in OMF.

SENSORY DEPRIVATION



FROM THE MOMENT CYBERIA TAKES OVER
YOUR MONITOR, YOU'LL ENTER A NEW LEVEL
OF GAMING. INCREDIBLE 3D RENDERING
BRINGS UNIMAGINED LANDSCAPES TO LIFE.
SYNTHETIC ACTORS MOVE WITH A FLUIDITY
AND PRECISION NEVER BEFORE ACHIEVED.
EVEN THE SHADOWS ARE ALIVE AS THE
LIGHT CHANGES. IN CYBERIA, YOU'LL BE
CHALLENGED BY A UNIQUE MIX OF STRATEGY,
ACTION AND ADVENTURE, ALL SET AGAINST A
REVERBERATING SOUNDTRACK BY THOMAS
DOLBY. QUITE SIMPLY, COMPUTER GAMES
WILL NEVER BE THE SAME AGAIN.

THE
STATE
OF
NEVER
HAVING
PLAYED



CYBERIA

Cyclemania (DOS)



▲ Cyclemania is an impossibly high speed action game where you can crash superbikes and still win the race, let alone live to tell the tale. Our playable demo has a full circuit from the game.

Ever fancied going totally wild on the open road? Here's a chance to take to your superbike and hack round those corners burning leather off the knees and elbows of your suit.

The idea of *Cyclemania* is to ride like a madman in a nerve shattering race against fierce competition and cross the finish line first – at any cost.

There's no need to worry if you lose it at 165mph. Just jump back on and continue the race. If you cut up the opposition, you even get bonus points!

This fully-playable demo treats you to one of the bikes and circuits in the full version. The scenery is real footage taken from an 'underground' course in Israel.

The full version also includes video footage of actual motorcycle races, but in the demo edition, you're limited to the Quick Race option. You can install the game (just a few files that take up 1Mb of hard disk space), and then run the game, from the *CD-ROM Today* DOS menu



▲ Bad judgement on the part of the rider in front has brought him to grief, but you still have to make sure you miss him on the way past.

system. Just type GO at the DOS prompt of your CD-ROM drive.

To install the game manually, type INSTALL and press return at the root directory of your CD-ROM drive (normally D:). After installation, change to the new CYCLE sub-directory of your hard disk and type CYCLE to start the game.

The cursor keys control the bike's acceleration, deceleration and steering.

Accolade (☎ 0181 788 0200)

BC Racers (DOS)

Continuing the racing theme, *BC Racers* is a wild and wacky world of prehistoric road racing. Dinosaurs and humans race in carts around streets which are a mixture of new and very old, owing more than a little to this years *Flintstones* craze.

The are options for single player games, plus a two-player mode with a split screen so both racers can keep up with the action. However, for the two-player mode, you'll need a joystick. One player uses the key controls on the keyboard, while the second uses the joystick.

There's no need to install anything to your hard drive. You can either type GO at the DOS prompt of your CD-ROM drive (normally drive D:), or run the game direct

from its sub-directory. To do this, change to the BCRACERS sub-directory, type CHUCK, and press Return.

Once *BC Racers* is running, you can select a single player game by pressing the F1 key.

The control keys are Q to accelerate, A to decelerate, < to turn left, and > to turn right. Additional keys are P for pause, and 3, 4, and 5 to toggle short, medium and long range views on and off.

While the game is paused, you can press 1 or 4 for low and high views of the action.

Core Design (☎ 01332 297797)



▲ It's fast and furious racing through scenes that look as if they owe a lot to the *Flintstones*.

CD-ROM performance

Even double-speed CD-ROM drives are considerably slower than hard disks. However, hard disk space is always at a premium, so we decided to set up the whole *CD-ROM Today* program to run directly from the CD-ROM. This means you don't have to worry about installing it – but you might have to be a little patient while some parts are loading, especially if you're using a slower machine.

Complete Disc Listing

Disc 1

Microsoft CD Sampler
Eight free Windows Games

Disc 2

Learn Your PC, CD-ROM Systems
Sources of Faith, KimTec UK
Retribution, Gremlin
Memphis Maths, Novell
Shakespeare on Disc, Plain Text Files
Paper Planes, Novell
Wrath of the Gods, Maxis
Cyclemania, Accolade
BC Racers, Core Design
One Must Fall, Epic MegaGames
CD Direct Catalogue, CD Direct

Setting up EMS Memory

None of the programs on this month's coverdisc require EMS (Expanded Memory). However, if you need to configure your 386 or 486 PC to emulate EMS memory for other programs, this is how to go about it. Refer to your DOS manual for more details.

First, you need this line to load the HIMEM device driver (it's probably there already):

DEVICE=C:\DOS\HIMEM.SYS

Following that, you need a line that reads:

DEVICE=C:\DOS\EMM386.EXE RAM

If you have a line that reads:

DEVICE=C:\DOS\EMM386.EXE NOEMS

change the NOEMS to RAM instead. This emulates EMS memory on 386 and 486-based PCs.



▲ BC Racers has single player, and two player split screen modes, so you can race your friends.

A Multimedia Planetarium on your desktop

From first time space traveller to seasoned star watcher, RedShift's award winning space simulation software takes you on a voyage of discovery across the Solar System, to the stars and beyond.

OVER 250,000 STARS

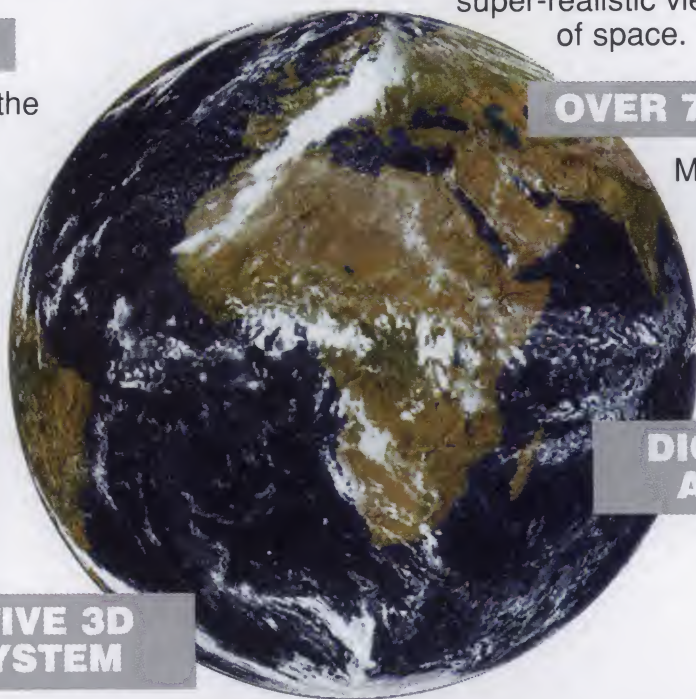
Features breathtaking views of the solar system, with the ability to observe over 250,000 stars, 40,000 deep sky objects plus comets and asteroids.



INTERACTIVE 3D SOLAR SYSTEM

Track a planet on its journey through space; watch Earthrise from the Moon; experience a total eclipse of the Sun; or view the

night sky from any spot in the Solar System. RedShift's virtual reality technology delivers super-realistic views of space.

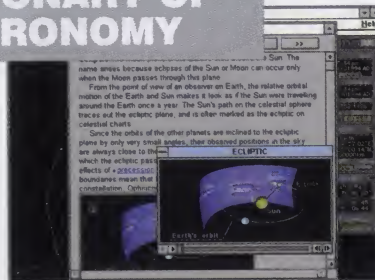


OVER 700 PHOTOS

More than 700 full screen astronomy photographs selected for their interest and outstanding beauty (includes the world famous collection of stunning astro-photographs taken by David Malin)



DICTIONARY OF ASTRONOMY



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MARIS

Editor Matthew Richards finds it's CD-ROM everywhere...

Comdex Report

► Comdex Fall is the biggest computer show in the world, invading most of Las Vegas for its 2,000 exhibitors and 200,000 visitors. This year, most of the prime site of the Sands Exhibition Centre was given over to PC CD-ROM and multimedia.



Las Vegas – it's all glamour, glitz, and gambling. But during the third week of November, it was also host to the biggest computer show in the world. A vast acreage of convention centre and exhibition floor space across the town bristled with new technology, as more than 200,000 visitors made 1994's Comdex Fall a world record event. Organisers, The Interface Group, are expecting the 1995 show to be even bigger: more than 2,350 exhibitors had signed up, even before the four-day 1994 event had drawn to a close.

So who was there? Well, just about everybody from Aartronics to ZyXEL, and from Star Trek Klingons, to Dr Ruth (she's even shorter in real life), who was promoting her new CD-ROM. Microsoft's stand alone

was the size of your average computer show, and Bill Gates gave the first of the keynote speeches. Unfortunately, they could only fit the first 7,000 attendees into the hotel theatre at the Aladdin, but a further 3,000 watched at video conferencing sites along the Vegas Strip.

During his speech, Gates unveiled a new Microsoft project, codenamed Marvel, which will put a multimedia-rich on-line service direct into the Windows '95 desktop. He went on to say that there was a tremendous explosion of PCs in the home (not literally we hope) but that less than 10 per cent of owners used PCs on a regular basis. Clearly, the services were not exciting enough, and this was a big area of opportunity.

But, of course, multimedia isn't limited to on-line services. With the success of CD-ROM, it has become an integral part of computing today, especially in the consumer market.

Last year, the multimedia section of Comdex was said to have really come of age – it was the year of multimedia. Exhibitors even shared their very own overgrown tent opposite the Las Vegas Convention Centre (one of the main sites).

But this year it was something else again. In the main two-storey exhibition centre at the Sands Hotel, the whole of the ground floor was consumed by multimedia exhibits. Half the second floor was taken over as well. It was absolute chaos! Hundreds of stands showed off the imagery, and more distractingly, the sound capabilities of new products. Big speakers were the order of the day and as the crescendo reached its peak around the halls, visitors stood and shouted with exhibitors – it was a bit like trying to hold involved, technical conversations in a disco.

CD-ROM was everywhere. There were discs for little kids, big kids, teenagers, grown-ups and a fair bit of really 'adult' stuff as well. It was interesting that last year, the porn on CD stands was a real show-stopper, clogging aisles for yards around. This year, there was far less interest; so either Las Vegas is putting bromide in the drinks, or the quality of new stuff has become a lot more interesting.

Many of the titles we've reviewed were the real stars of the show, but there was also phenomenal interest in MPEG (Motion Picture Experts Group). Boards for playing full-screen, full-motion and White Book video CDs were everywhere, with lots of suppliers vying for a place in the market. More surprisingly, there were also video encoding boards for the PC on show. In the past, the complicated algorithms for generating MPEG compressed video required powerful UNIX systems, but the speed of development for PC-based encoding has surprised everyone.

Overall, CD-ROM and multimedia generated by far and away the most interest among everyone who attended Comdex Fall. We can expect to see some brilliant new developments over the coming year.

► Visitors were so keen that the foyer began to fill up two hours before the doors to the main halls were even open.

▼ The second main site was the Las Vegas Conference Centre. Here there was more of a business orientation.



News

CD Jukebox

Tired of swapping CDs in the middle of *Under a Killing Moon*? Then you might try out Nakamichi's 7 CD Juke-Box CD-ROM drive. Caddyless, it's double speed, and can switch discs in under 3 seconds. It will connect to your PC via a SCSI2 interface, and used in conjunction with an MPEG card could offer up to 8 hours of nearly continuous Video CD output. The Nakamichi MBR-7 costs £299 plus VAT and is available from CD Revolution (☎ 01932 562000).



Radio Active

Are you ready for a roller-coaster ride through music memorabilia? If you are, *Radio Active* could be just the thing.

A music trivia game spanning from 1960 to the present, *Radio Active* combines a board game scenario with music, trivia, puzzles and video.

There are 200 songs for you to identify, more than 1,000 quiz questions, 100 music puzzles and riddles for you to solve, and a multi-player function that enables you to compete with up to three friends.



Radio Active is expected to cost around £30, and will be supplied by US Gold.

Also from US Gold, is an upgrade for the popular CD-ROM adventure game, *The Journeyman Project*. The Turbo edition speeds the game up by a factor of four. It costs £9.99 for the upgrade or costs £40 when bought new. For more information, call US Gold (☎ 0121 606 1800).



Revealing the year of sound

The New Year is to be 'the year of sound' for audio hardware specialists, Reveal Computer Products. And as a sign of the times, the company has released a new music-learning package designed for both education and family entertainment.

The MusicStar kit's main feature is a polyphonic MIDI keyboard that plugs straight into your PC. Playing up to 128 customisable instrument sounds, it works with 8-bit, 16-bit or Wavetable sound cards. In one month, 20,000 MusicStar kits have been sold in the US.

Along with the three octave synthesiser, MusicStar comes with easy-to-install software on CD-ROM that enables you to play and learn about music. A five-level basic music course will teach melody, rhythm and the importance of practice, using 25 favourite songs for keyboard training. It can even mark your progress and indicate where you need to improve.

The music school section details five great composers – including Bach and Mozart – and there's a 10-chapter interactive course covering musical theory.

When you've finished learning, it's play-time. The jam session section will set up automatic

jamming keys chosen by you. After a little practice, you can pop down to the recording studio to record your own compositions on a four-track system, adding percussion and background rhythms.

With a price of £119, which includes VAT, Reveal says that MusicStar's price compares favourably to orthodox music lessons which can cost £25 per hour.

Meanwhile, Reveal is likely to push its higher-end sound equipment in 1995. According to it's European channel manager, Mark Chandler, 16-bit sound card prices will crash and Wavetable devices will be the standard by the end of the year.

Reveal Computer Products
(☎ 0181 845 7400)

Infotainment!

Nearly every CD-ROM we see is full of facts. Here are just a few from discs reviewed this month...



The original Bolshoi ballet company was made up of dancers from the Moscow Orphanage School of Dance and former serf actors from the Golovkina estate.

The Bolshoi, page 38.



Eryops was a prehistoric amphibian that probably hunted in water and on land in the areas of the US now known as Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico.

Microsoft Dinosaurs, page 70.



Belostomatidae, the giant water bug, can measure up to 4.5 inches long, and will bite severely if handled. It lives in warm countries.

The New Dictionary of the Living World, page 41.

Wolf Hollow

Produced with the aid of wolf experts Paul and Joni Soffron, *Wolf Hollow* helps you appreciate the life cycle of this once reviled, but now increasingly endangered species.

The disc details wolf pack behaviour, physical characteristics, wolf howls, breeding and other aspects of these fierce but social carnivores.

Wolf Hollow costs £46 and is available from LTS (☎ 0386 792617).



MPEG Studio

A PC add-in card from SAI Technologies is possibly the first MPEG compression hardware for under £2,000. MPEG Studio combines video capture, editing, compression and playback. The entire package consists of two hardware boards, disks, CDs, and a comprehensive users' manual.

MPEG studio costs under £2,000, competing with packages costing ten times as much.

SAI Technologies (☎ 0181 578 5668)



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PC view



Dave Pearman, the editor of our sister magazine *PC Plus*, looks out for the application that will drive businesses over to CD-ROM.

CD-ROM is wonderful! No, I mean it – CD may not be the leading edge of PC technology, but it allows us to do things we couldn't do before.

Nobody can fail to be impressed by some of the latest 'edutainment' titles, such as the Broderbund Living Books, or the range from the innovative British publishing house, Dorling Kindersley. The sheer volume of information which is provided on these discs is matched by faultless presentation. It all combines to give you that 'Just five more minutes...' feeling when you're using it.

If it's so great, why have the business software publishers largely ignored it? Yes, I know that many can and do now supply their products on CD-ROM, but these are usually just a replacement for dozens of floppy disks – the software isn't often enhanced.

There were a few early efforts, the multimedia editions of *Microsoft Works*, and *Lotus 1-2-3*, for example. These add multimedia help and tutorials to existing products, mainly to help new users get to grips with the package – a sort of interactive training video on disc.

Other than that, most CD-ROM editions of business applications usually consist of a floppy disk-based product plus loads of clip art and fonts – that's not exactly an adventurous use of the new technology.

Corel, at least, recognises that it's cheaper to distribute software this way, and sells the CD version of *CorelDRAW! 5* for £200 less than the floppy one.

Operating systems are the latest type of software to benefit from the masses of space on CD. Installing Windows NT or OS/2 Warp from a large stack of floppies wouldn't be a quick or trivial operation, but, again, the end result is the same.

For CD to make the same impact in the business world as it has in leisure, we're waiting for the ground-breaking package – the one that says to people 'You must get a CD-ROM drive just to run this'.

If you spot it first, let me know...

Manufacturers marry multimedia and television

Introducing PCTV

Picture your television. Now your PC. Two completely separate objects, right? Well, this might not be the case for very much longer. A single home entertainment machine combining a television, PC and CD-ROM multimedia is just around the corner.

ICL is a major renovator of the traditional view of the PC as an office machine, or a nerd's toy. It plans to hit the market in the next couple of months with its all-in-one PCTV.

Coming in a styled grey-black box that resembles a standard portable television, the PCTV contains a 14-inch colour television and a minimum of a 486SX2 PC running at 50MHz. At the top end of the range, the PCTV will contain a Pentium chip, and although no prices have been confirmed yet, unofficial estimates start at around £1,300.

With a built-in double speed CD-ROM drive and NICAM stereo

speakers, the PCTV will work as an audio CD-player as well.

Internally, it includes a 16-bit sound card and a minimum 4Mb RAM with a 420Mb hard drive. There will be enough space inside to upgrade the memory and add an MPEG card for Video CD, and some machines are likely to come with MPEG capability as standard.

You'll be able to use an infra-red remote to control both television programming and the cursor. Mouse and joystick ports are at the front of the machine and the easily removable keyboard includes a trackball.

One of the most useful things about the PCTV, ICL claims, is that it will include a 'smart' graphical interface which will automatically configure your machine to the various kinds of software that you're using. So you will be able to move quickly between DOS games, Windows applications and your favourite television programmes.

However, stiff competition for ICL's PCTV is already on the market. Olivetti has recently added a PC television to its PCS range of multimedia computers.

Although the PCS Television still looks more or less identical to the standard



▲ Television revolution – the new generation of PCs includes Spectria (above) and PCTV (below).

PC – coming in a cream-coloured box with a monitor on top and speakers on either side of it – it is shipped with a built-in WinTV television/teletext tuner card.

The minimum processor for the PCS Television is a 486SX running at 50MHz, and it comes with a double speed CD-ROM drive, 16-bit sound and external stereo speakers. Prices start at around £1,349.

Another amalgamation of PCs and televisions will soon be available in the form of the Spectria from Packard Bell. Already on sale in the United States, the Spectria is due to be launched in Britain early in the New Year.

Like PCTVs, Spectrias are all-in-one moulded boxes with built-in CD-ROM drives, speakers, TV tuners and radios plus fax-modems. The range will ship with 486 and Pentium processors, and prices are likely to be between £1,000 and £2,500 depending on spec.

Anyway, now I think it must be time for *Coronation Street*. And after that, perhaps a *Little Big Adventure* before tea...



Elvis Lives

The King of rock 'n' roll, Elvis Presley, is the posthumous superstar of a brand new CD-ROM from Discworth.

Elvis on CD-ROM is apparently the first multimedia disc to take the King as its sole subject matter, and includes a complete Elvis biography, along with a comprehensive collection of sound and video clips.

A vast discography section displays many original record covers, including bootlegs, and there's also a collection of full colour Playbills from all the Elvis movies. For anyone who dares, there's a section to help you learn to sing like the King; 23 favourite tracks are presented along with a singing guide. Rounding it all off are ten clips of Elvis from selected TV shows.

Elvis on CD-ROM costs £29.99 plus VAT and is available from Discworth (☎ 01483 757033).

► Before there was multimedia there was the King. Things will never be the same...



Noctropolis

Comic shop owner Peter Grey has a paper thin grip on reality. It comes as no surprise therefore, when he's sucked into the world of the comic book city, *Noctropolis*, and becomes the superhero Darksheer.

With digitised video of all the main characters, as well as plenty of speech and humour, *Noctropolis* is an adventure game boasting gothic-influenced comic artwork. Playing the role of Peter Grey/Darksheer, the objective is to confront greed, lust, temptation and despair to save the seedy city, outsmarting the super-villain, Flux to survive.

Noctropolis is available from Electronic Arts (☎ 01753 549442) for £49.99.

Catching the Gingerbread Man

The Residents' Freakshow was probably way ahead of its time, and has been widely influential in the development of interactive music CD-ROMs.

But now, before most bands have even thought about doing their first multimedia disc, The Residents are back with a second production, which bears all the peculiarity and incomprehensible weirdness of *Freakshow*.

Moving from the physically distorted characters of the first disc, *The Gingerbread Man* explores the thoughts and feelings of nine imaginary people who, each, in their own way, suffer from mental or emotional dementia.

The characters include a confused transsexual, an ascetic, a disillusioned ex-rock star and a butcher haunted by the flesh of dead animals. Searching into the minds of the mad, their fragmented thoughts are represented by photos, text, drawings and speech, and each person's multimedia story is accompanied by original music.

With the disc doubling as a 10 track

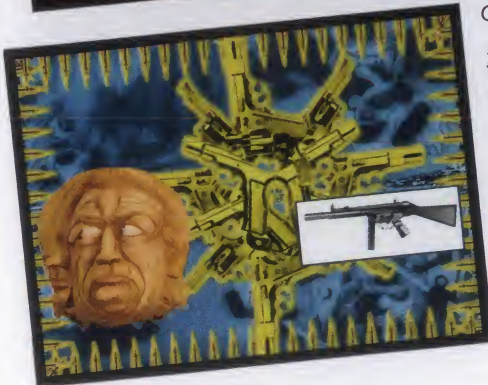
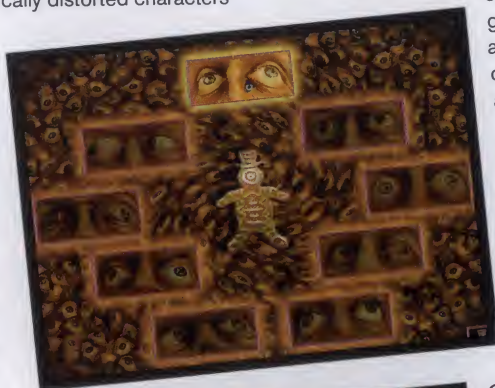
audio CD, BMG, who will distribute it in the UK, plans to market it as a CD album through record stores as well as a multimedia CD-ROM.

Although gingerbread has apparently little relevance to the problems of the main characters in this disc, it is the Gingerbread Man's image that ties the disc together as he appears in their thoughts. The Residents got this motif from an old children's story about a gingerbread boy, baked by a childless woman, who comes to life and runs away from home.

The Gingerbread Man was produced by ION, and will be available in this country from February through BMG Interactive (☎ 0171 384 7774) at a cost of £39.99. Watch for a review of the disc in next month's issue of *CD-ROM Today*.

▲ It's all in the eyes. Spin the Gingerbread Man over to a set of eyes and their owner introduces him/herself with some obscure comments.

◀ The retired musician used to be on MTV. Now he just thinks of guns and small dogs all day. A jolly old soul. Not!



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And that's not all. With every copy of Wing Commander you could wing it all the way to the USA with our two flights for the price of one offer to selected destinations*.

It's the ultimate trip!

* Each passenger to pay for travel insurance, security charges and airport taxes. Competition closing date is the 31.5.95. Flights are to be taken between 1.1.95 and 30.6.95. Entries are restricted to those aged 18 years old and over. For full terms and conditions see the competition entry form, booking guide and flight voucher enclosed in each box.



SIX OF THE BEST



World Cup Soccer 1930-1994:

An interactive guide to the history of the World Cup from 1930 to 1994. Includes: 30 minutes of digital video; a detailed guide to the competing nations; hundreds of trivia questions; thousands of interesting facts.
Available 7 December on PC CD-ROM



Island Hopping (Flight Simulator Scenery Disks):

Fly yourself to some of the world's most exotic islands including the Azores, the Canary Islands and Madeira with Supervision's scenery disks for Microsoft's Flight Simulator V4 and V5.
Available 5 December on PC 3-5



The Interactive Lovers' Guide:

Based on the astoundingly successful video programme featuring informative, sensitive and frank commentary on sex and relationship skills. Now enhanced and adapted for multimedia. This product carries a BBFC 18 Certificate.
Available now for MPC and Mac CD



The Rock 'n' Roll Years - The 50's:

Relive the sights and sounds of your youth ...or... discover the past! This informative guide to the music of the Fifties includes charts from both sides of the Atlantic, music from the decade, video clips of key events and hundreds of trivia questions.
Available now for MPC.



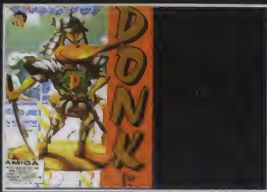
Monopoly:

The classic game that estate agents dream about. Featuring up to 8 animated cartoon characters who represent the well known Monopoly Tokens.
Available now for PC (3-5) and Amiga A500, A500+, A600 and A1200



Donk! The Samurai Duck:

He ain't no Chicken! He's Donk! The Samurai Duck. Guide Donk! through numerous traps, tricks and trials on his journey through 7 fabulous worlds and 112 dazzling levels to collect all available gems.
Available now for Amiga A500, A500+, A600, A1200 (256 colours) and CD³²



Watch out for further exciting products from Supervision in the New Year.
Acknowledgments:
World Cup Soccer under licence from Emerwey Ltd.
Island Hopping under licence from Flight Simulations.
Loves' Guide under licence from Lifetime Productions Ltd.
The Rock 'n' Roll Years under licence from Emerwey Ltd.
Monopoly® is a registered trademark. © 1993 Tonka Corporation
Donk! under licence from The Hidden



Supervision Entertainment Ltd.
Unit N3L, Metropolitan Wharf,
Wapping Wall, London E1 9SS

A member company of
John Waddington PLC

Moments of news

Corel software

In issue 7, we credited Frontline with the distribution of Corel software. It is also available from a number of other sellers, including GEM (☎ 01279 442842).

Doom levels

The CD-ROM User Group is offering more than 1,000 *Doom* levels, plus level editors, on CD-ROM. The levels, stored as WAD files will work only with registered versions of *Doom*. It costs £13.99 from the CD-ROM Users Group (☎ 01424 730326).

Crystal Vision

Six new Crystal Vision CDs have been released by Guildsoft. The titles include *Doom & More*, *Action Games*, *3D Multimedia Games*, *Awesome Arcade Games*, *Casino Games CD* and *Mind Games*. Each compilation discs costs £14.99. Guildsoft (☎ 01752 895100)

Cheaper Orchids

Orchid has reduced the prices of its range of Kelvin EZ graphics accelerators to below £100. The price of the Kelvin 64 has also been cut – to £125.

The company has also relaunched its sound card range. The SoundWave 32 Pro comes with MIDI recording software, *QuikVoice*, *Media Rack*, *KeyZ Player* and *Q-Sound* for surround sound. The entire package costs £169. At the lower end, you can get the SoundDrive 16 EZ for £79.99. Details from Orchid Europe (☎ 01256 479898).

Upgrade Drive-Thru

Chips, of the potato variety, have long been available at drive-through restaurants. Now those made of silicon are also sold at a similar drive-through outlet. In fact, you can have an entire multimedia upgrade while you wait at Powermark's North London location. The Upgrade Drive Thru service at Premier House, Station Road, Edgware, operates 9:30am to 5pm weekdays and 10am to 3pm on Saturdays. Call Powermark (☎ 0181 951 3355).

Correction

We apologise to CD-ROM Systems for printing its telephone number incorrectly with our review of *Learn Your PC*. You can reach CD-ROM Systems on (☎ 01293 525271).

Exploring Enterprise

Information that Klingon spies have sought for light years can now be at your fingertips with the latest *Star Trek* CD-ROM.

Based on a book which has already sold 400,000 copies, *Star Trek: The Next Generation – Interactive Technical Manual* is shooting to become a best-seller on CD as well.

As an inspector of the USS Enterprise NCC-1701-D, you'll be treated to around 150 fly-through corridors as you travel between various parts of the spaceship. Check out the command bridge and play with its controls, experience the holodeck, or go below decks to see what's up in engineering. Hundreds of items are available for you to examine – including the personal effects of Captain Picard – as well as diagrams, text entries, and episode clips.

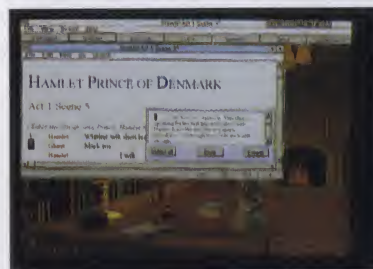
Outside the Enterprise, you can see its hull from space in detail, or take a break at the Ten Forward bar. The disc boasts loads of behind the scenes information, sets, locations and objects as yet unseen by 20th century mortals.

Star Trek the Next Generation – Interactive Technical Manual for Windows costs £44.95.

ABLAC (☎ 01626 332233)



Shakespeare on disc



A few months ago we reviewed a multimedia version of *Macbeth*. Now, you can get *William Shakespeare: The Complete Works* on CD-ROM.

A key feature of the disc is its powerful search capability. Writings can be selected and compared to other Shakespeare works by a number of criteria including imagery used, soliloquy

search, song search and scene search.

Every word throughout the works is hotlinked, so that you can instantly find out how many times Shakespeare wrote any particular word.

A detailed glossary provides definitions of Elizabethan words, and a bookmark facility enables you to mark certain selections for your own library of favourite passages.

For scholars, the disc also features its own word processor, so that you can copy and paste quotes of your choice directly into your own writings.

William Shakespeare: The Complete Works costs £29.99 including VAT from Andromeda Multimedia (☎ 01235 529595).

Texan laptop

Multimedia on the go, with 50MHz power, is now available from Texas Instruments with its Travelmate 4000M.

With a CD-ROM drive optional, the machine includes a dual-scan colour monitor, lightweight long-life battery and built-in multimedia capabilities like Indeo video and 16-bit sound. A 50MHz 486SX2 chip is standard, 4Mb of RAM can be expanded to 20Mb, and prices start around £2,400.

The portable CD-ROM docking bay option, at a further £700, includes a double-speed CD-ROM drive, built-in stereo speakers, headphones and its own battery.

In the future, as TI attempts to increase its market share by broadening its range, the company plans to release a 75MHz Travelmate as well.

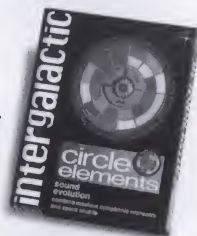
Texas Instruments (☎ 01234 223122)



Compose pop

If you've ever been inclined to write your own pop songs, Time and Space may have just the answer for you.

The Circle Elements on CD-ROM is software designed to help you get to grips with the techniques of musical composition. Selecting various sounds and instruments, you can layer them to create a continuous piece of music. Two discs are available: *Volume 1 – Intergalactic* could guide you on your way to hip-hop/techno stardom, while *Volume 2 – Planet Earth* uses more natural sound effects and instruments. Each disc costs £29.95, or you can get both for £49.95. Time and Space (☎ 01442 870981).



Infotainment!

Nearly every CD-ROM we see is full of facts. Here are just a few from discs reviewed this month...



The bigeye thresher shark averages 11 to 13 feet in length and has large, upward looking eyes and a long erect tail that it sometimes uses to whip the fish it preys upon.

Sharks, page 93.



The 1980 office comedy, 9 to 5, will go down in film history, mainly because it was the screen debut of country singer Dolly Parton. Lilly Tomlin and Jane Fonda also starred.

Cinemanía '95, page 30.



South Korea has a total land area of 98,180 square miles and boasts coal, tungsten, graphite, molybdenum, lead and hydro-electricity among its natural resources.

World Atlas, page 54.

your view



Come up with your own design for a CD-ROM title and win £1,000. Interested? Of course you are! Now read on...

This is your chance to change the face of multimedia history. All you have to do is to draw up a design brief for a new CD-ROM disc, and you could see it go into production.

And who knows? Your ideas could take the world by storm.

But if adulation and success aren't enough for you, there are other more tangible benefits, too. The creator of the winning entry will be rewarded with a cash prize of £1,000, as well as a share of the eventual royalties when your creation goes on sale.

We're able to offer this fantastic prize in conjunction with Synergy Limited, a company previously engaged in corporate multimedia that's looking to make this its first entry into the consumer CD-ROM market.

CD-ROM Today Editor Matthew Richards and the rest of the judging panel will select the winner on the grounds of originality, interactivity and commercial feasibility. Imagination and a keen understanding of the capabilities of the medium will both be key indicators of success.

Designs should be submitted as a brief typed description of the idea, on one or two sides of A4 paper, and may be accompanied by additional supporting materials such as design visuals if needed. Send your entries to:

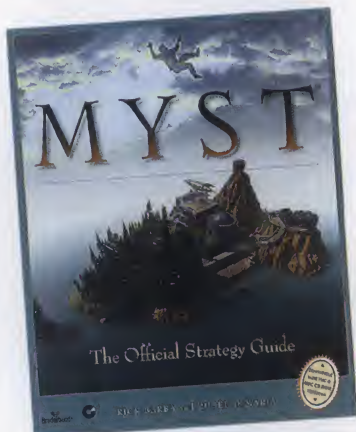
Design Your Own CD-ROM
CD-ROM Today
Future Publishing
30, Monmouth Street
Bath
Avon
BA1 2BW

Make sure you include your address and telephone number, and please enclose a stamped addressed envelope if you wish your designs to be returned. The closing date for entries is February 14th, and the winner will be notified no more than 30 days after that date.

We're sorry, but employees of Synergy Limited or Future Publishing are not allowed to enter, and the judges' decision (however irrational it may seem to be) is final.

So what are you waiting for? Fame and fortune beckon!

Books to WIN!



Are you having trouble reaching the end of *Myst*? Has *Under a Killing Moon* got you dying for a clue?

Then you might try out a new set of books released by Computer Manuals.

Or, you can take your chance of winning

them through *CD-ROM Today* magazine. We have got together with Computer Manuals, to offer three sets of all these five titles: *Doom II*, *The Official Strategy Guide*, *Myst: The Official Strategy Guide*, *Sim City 2000: Power, Politics and Planning*, *Microsoft Space Simulator: The Official Strategy Guide*, and *Under a Killing Moon: The Official Strategy Guide*.

Alternatively, you can order your own playing guides by calling Computer Manuals. Each book costs £18.49 including VAT. Call Computer Manuals (☎ 0121 706 6000)

To win a set of these excellent books, write the name of one of the stars of *Under a Killing Moon* on a postcard and send it to Play to Win Compo, *CD-ROM Today*, 30 Monmouth Street, Bath, BA1 2BW, to arrive by January 17th.

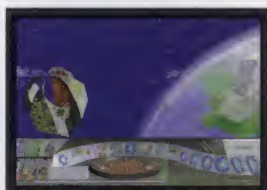
Coming soon ...

Frontier: First Encounters is Gametek's sequel to the best-selling *Frontier: Elite*. With the Thargoids poised to return, it's up to you, the player, to re-establish contact after a century of interstellar war. Graphics are much improved with full texture mapping and rendered future cityscapes. The CD-ROM features video clips. Price TBA.

Gametek (☎ 01753 553445)

Yet another choice for golf gamers is set to hit the greens with Core Design's *Scottish Open Virtual Golf*. Designed as a video game, it features 3D graphics and has a heavy emphasis on TV-style presentation. With an arcade look and feel, *Scottish Open* is multi-player and has a very basic drive mechanism for greater ease-of-play. Price TBA. Core Design (☎ 01332 297797).

Actress Rosalind Chao (*Star Trek: The Next Generation*) is the live action MC of Activision's *Shanghai: Great Moments*, a game that brings mahjong to CD-ROM. With nine variations of the oriental tile game, *Great Moments* features film and television clips, music and multimedia reward screens. The price has still to be announced. Activision (☎ 0181 742 9400)



Anglia Learning Discs

Understanding Energy, *Garden Wildlife* and *World War II - The Home Front* are just a few from a range of educational CDs by Anglia Television to be released for the multimedia PC.

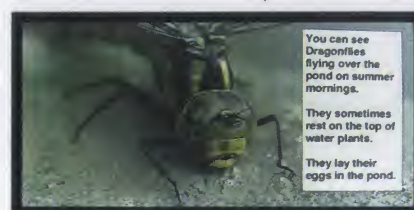
Featuring video clips from Anglia productions like the *Survival* wildlife series, all the discs are based on the National Curriculum and designed for schools. The company feels, however, that parents would be interested in buying the software for home use. Other discs include *Castles* and *Understanding the Body*.

MPEG versions of many of the titles are

planned, offering full-screen, full-motion video, photos, sounds, animation and text.

Anglia Television discs start at £25.

(☎ 01603 615151)



Moments of news

Out of MPEG

Supplying Rover showrooms around the country with MPEG kits, Videologic ran out of 928 Moviecards. Featuring MPEG daughterboards, the Moviecards are now back in stock, and separate MPEG decoders are also available.

Videologic (☎ 0923 260511)

Microsoft line

For up-to-date information on the latest Microsoft products, prices and services, a dedicated Microsoft consumer hotline has been announced. It covers reference, productivity, children's software, entertainment, and hardware. Microsoft cosumer hotline (☎ 0181 242 4178).

Lemmings guide

If you're stuck playing *Lemmings*, *Oh-no! More Lemmings* or *Lemmings 2 - The Tribes*, perhaps you should check out *Lemmings: The Solutions*. This playing guide instructs you step-by-step on promises to get that last few per cent home. It costs £9.95 and is available from Kuma (☎ 0734 844335).

1p a megabyte

Unica is now offering *Danger Hot Stuff* and *Hot Stuff II* in a CD-ROM double pack at £12. This works out to over a gigabyte of sound and graphics demos - around 1p per megabyte. Unica (☎ 0161 429 0241)

Encarta free with 3Xi

NEC is now offering a free copy of Microsoft's *Encarta '95* with each triple speed MultiSpin 3Xi CD-ROM drive. The package sells for £249.

NEC (☎ 0181 993 8111)

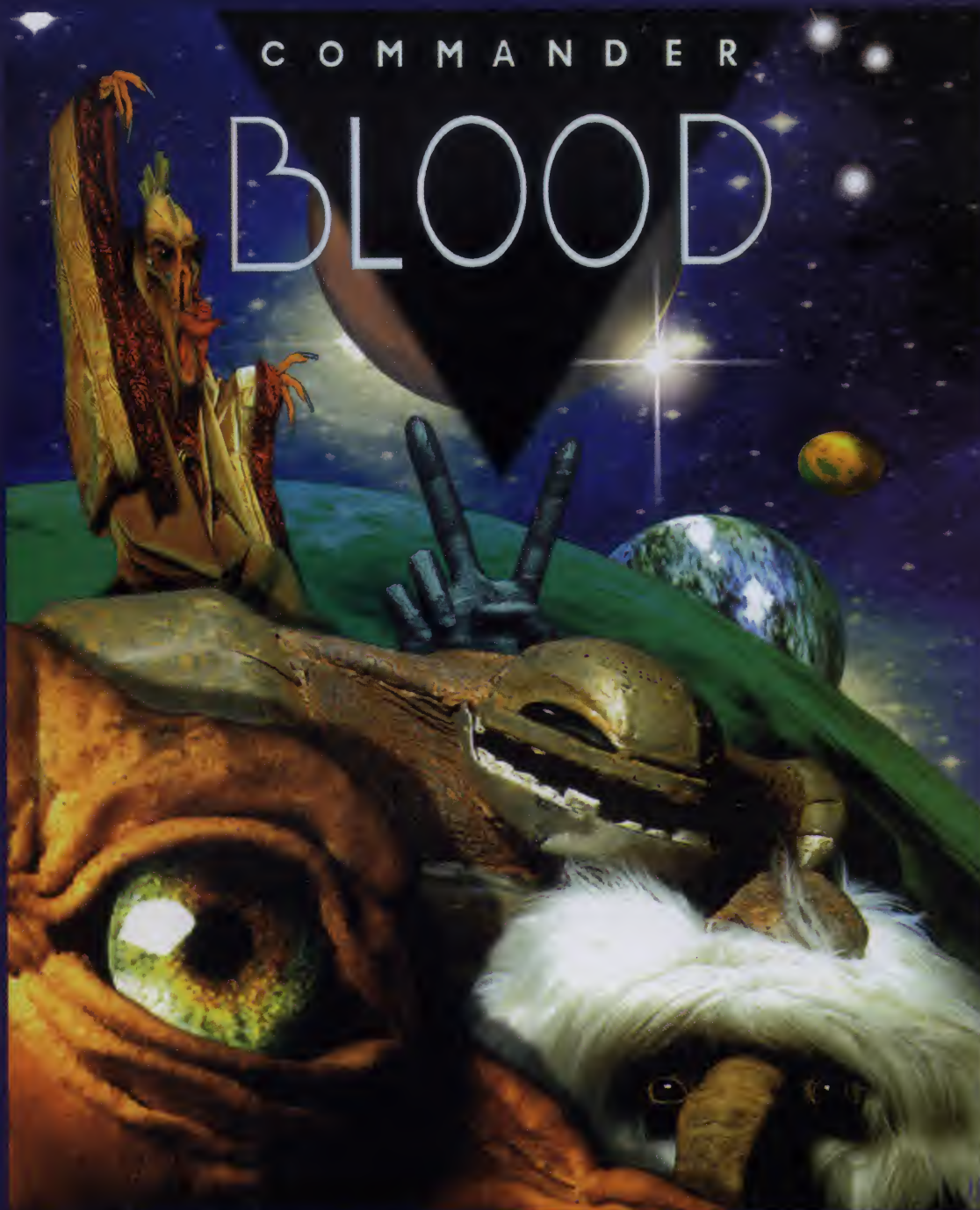
Kyrandia sequel

Kyrandia Book Three: Malcolm's Revenge has been released by Virgin Interactive. Playing a crazy court jester, you're out to get even, after a spell in prison, and must solve funny puzzles in your quest through the Ends of the World. Virgin Interactive (☎ 0181 960 2255).

3FT 6-Pak correction

In this column last month we reported the release of the 3FT 6-Pak for kids. However, the contact number we quoted for its supplier was actually a fax number. To order a pack, call Peel Hall on ☎ 0161 436 2095.

PC CD-ROM £44.99



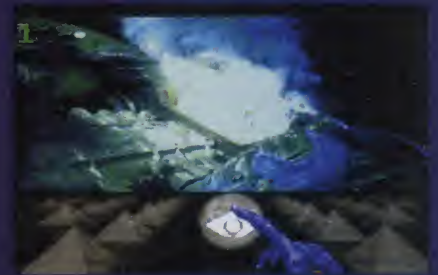
time and space you will be helped by Honk, the famous bio-conscience of the spaceship Arch, to defend the oppressed and answer the great questions of life...

What is at the origin of the Big Bang? • Who is Petit Piteux, the pirate of the Waves? • Who is benefiting from the trade of Bionium?
And why do the Scruters have cybernetic Mantas in their heads? • Who is behind the mysterious 'Guilde Des Membres'?
And the Ondoyantes, oh, the Ondoyantes... • And then who, really, is Bob?

The answer may be found in this crowd of stars...



PRIORITY HOUSE, CHARLES HOUSE,
MALTINGS PARK, BURGESS HILL,
WEST SUSSEX, RH15 9TQ
TEL: 01444 246333



Ooooooh! You stranger... You come from
sky... FEAR... FEAR...



What would you like to splurge your creds
on, Supra Comrade?



In the absolute and frozen silence
of never-ending deep space, at the
far end of the cosmos, the spiral of
multicolour galactic cloud wraps up
the planet Corpo with its volutes
(at 40° of boreal latitude).

Bob Morlock, President of the
Kanary Research Corp. has
constructed you, Commander Blood,
to carry out his last wishes -
to see the birth of the universe.
In this fabulous adventure through



CREATURE SHOCK

GET READY FOR THE FRIGHT OF YOUR LIFE

Your heart is pounding. Your pulse rate is rising. Your mind is racing. You can taste the sweat from your brow. You have no idea what lurks around the next corner.

But you know it won't be pleasant.

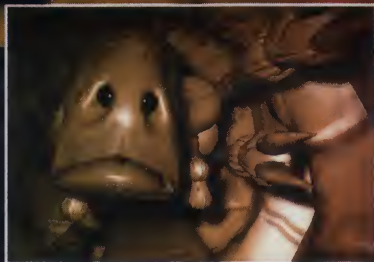
In the 22nd Century, the Earth is experiencing overpopulation and environmental destruction on a critical scale. Three ships are launched to search the solar system for a suitable second home.

Four years later, as the UNS Amazon nears Saturn, all contact is lost, save for the faint signal of an emergency distress beacon. There's something out there. Something very large, very alien and evidently very unfriendly...

Find out what fate befell the crew of the UNS Amazon in a vast alien environment inhabited by hundreds of the most disturbing life-forms ever seen. Immerse yourself in over one gigabyte of exploration and extermination, stunning rendered imagery, and exceptional cinematography that has to be experienced to be believed.

CREATURE SHOCK

Available on CD-ROM only for the IBM PC compatibles.



"A full play demo version of "Creature Shock" is also featured on the album "Sea Of Tranquility" (Cat No ESPCD1) an Interactive CD-Rom/Audio CD from The Echo Special Projects Label. Available now from all good record stores for the price of a regular audio CD"
© 1994 Argonaut Software © 1994 Virgin Interactive Entertainment Limited



Virgin

Competitions!

There's around £3,000 worth of top software up for grabs in our two fantastic competitions. You can win *Encarta '95*, *Cinemania '95*... or both!

Winners!

The postbag gets heavier every month. We were inundated with entries for November's competitions. And no wonder! The prizes were ten copies of *Woodstock*, and ten copies of *Titan's Legacy*, the new scenario for *Battle Isle 2*, packaged with the original game.

Most of you had problems with the answers for the *Woodstock* competition, so you might want to go back to the coverdisc from issue 8 (December) to check the answers. Looks like we'll have to make the questions a bit easier next time.

The lucky winners are:

Titan's Legacy

J Talbot, Bromsgrove, Worcs
Patrick Ang, Chiswick, London
Ms I Wong, Woodford Bridge
Edward Pratt, Liverpool
Mr A Paul, Glasgow
Keith Wafford, Hertford
B A Horrocks, Nuneaton,
Christopher Lan, Cumberland
S Hinson, Peterborough
N Oliver, Ruislip, Middlesex

Woodstock

Tom Rayfield, Buckingham
D Charmer, Hatfield, Essex
C Grover, Witham, Essex
Andrew Charters, Manchester
Peter Parr, Epsom, Surrey
D Aycliffe, Bristol
M Pullen, Southall, Middlesex
Mrs Prouse, Bideford, Devon
Mr C H Jones, Eton, Berkshire
N O'Leary, Norwich

Win the world's best CD-ROM disc!

To celebrate this month's double-disc team-up with Microsoft, we're giving away 20 copies of their definitive multimedia encyclopedia for Windows – *Encarta '95*.

Many quite sensible people have turned to jelly when shown this amazing disc, getting terribly excited and describing it as nothing less than the world's greatest CD-ROM title.



Now you can see what all the fuss is about, just by answering this simple question:

On which printed encyclopedia is Encarta based?

...but that's not all!

Not content to offer 20 copies of the world's premier multimedia encyclopedia, we've also got 20 more copies of *Cinemania '95*, Microsoft's astonishingly good movie guide.

With reviews of over 19,000 films, a host of multimedia playthings and design to die for, this new updated version sets the

benchmark for all consumer CD-ROM software.

To stand a chance of winning this great disc, just check out the review on page 30, then get yourself a postcard, jot down the answer to the following question and send it to us:

Who played Mrs Danvers in the 1940 production of *Rebecca*?



How to enter...

Send all written entries on a postcard or on the back of a sealed envelope to:

Encarta Competition
or
Cinemania Competition
at
CD-ROM Today
Future Publishing
30 Monmouth Street
Bath BA1 2BW

Closing date:
January 17th 1995

Rules

1. Anyone except employees of Future Publishing, Microsoft and related companies can enter. No purchase is necessary.
2. No cash or other alternative prizes.
3. Entries must be received by last post on January 17th 1995. No responsibility will be accepted for entries damaged defaced or lost in the post.
4. Winners will be notified by post. Names of winners will be available by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to the competition address within 28 days of the closing date.
5. The judges' decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into.



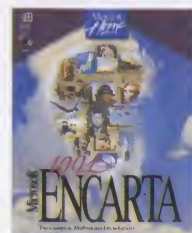
Free! With the MultiSpin 3Xi. The Encarta '95 multimedia Encyclopedia.

You won't find a better way to enter the world of multimedia CD-ROM. Or find a more terrific way to move up to a triple-speed MultiSpin™ drive.

Because now, when you buy the MultiSpin 3Xi for £249, you'll also receive the stunning ENCARTA™ '95 Multimedia Encyclopedia from Microsoft® – absolutely FREE!

Discover a new world of learning and multimedia excitement. With its incredibly fast access time and virtually flicker-free video processing the MultiSpin 3Xi is the perfect drive for bringing out the very best from the updated ENCARTA Encyclopedia.

Stocks are limited and so this special offer can't last long. Call us right now on **0345 300 103** to secure your MultiSpin 3Xi drive with free ENCARTA.



► Here it is, then, the latest edition of this amazing film guide. But the title screen's much the same as it was before and, in fact, not much has really changed...

Editor's
choice

Top titles

Cinemanía '95

The popcorn has been bought and the trailers dutifully viewed. Now house lights dim, and a gentle hush falls across the auditorium as we follow Jon Smith on a magical journey into the silver screen...

From 1915 to 1994 in just seven steps – pretty exciting, eh? Well, you'd better get used to it, because this kind of whistle-stop journey is exactly what *Cinemanía* is all about. Anyone who's ever been the slightest bit curious about films – who's ever asked themselves "wasn't he the one in...?" or "didn't she marry that actor; you know...?" will find this disc the perfect medium for their investigations, however fanciful they may be.

And the beauty of it is that all the information is dynamically linked, giving rise to the kind of hop-scotching trivia-browsing that we were indulging in just a moment ago. Each entry, be it biographical, historical or critical, is littered with highlighted names and phrases. Click on any one and you'll jump almost instantaneously to that topic.

It could be something entirely expected – the leap from *Double Indemnity* to *The Cincinnati Kid*, for example (the link: Edward G Robinson) – or it could be altogether more surprising, like the jump from Demi Moore to Jaye Davison (in his review of *Indecent Proposal*, Roger Ebert compares it to *The Crying Game*).



Goldfinger – starred alongside Michelle Pfeiffer in *The Russia House*. So we're just one final step away from Pfeiffer's performance in *Wolf*, and we've reached one of the most recent films to be included in this new edition of Microsoft's definitive movie guide.

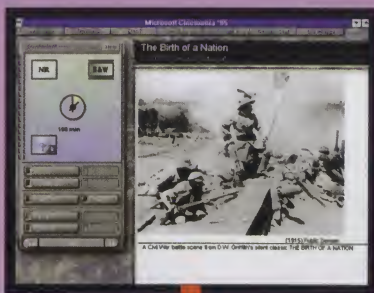
▲ Stephen Spielberg's *Jaws* is one of two new films to be awarded video clips in this latest edition. As you can see from the panel on the left, you can also look at a complete credits list, hear some music, or look at any one of four reviews.

Let's begin with *Birth of a Nation*. "In a very real sense," notes *The Encyclopedia of Film*, "this is the picture that started it all." Then what? Well, the associated filmography of director David Wark Griffith concludes with a mention of his role as 'uncredited technical adviser' on the 1940 version of *One Million Years BC*. So let's take a look at that. Not particularly notable, but it was remade by Hammer in 1966 with Racquel Welch, a film notable only for the amazing dinosaur effects of Ray Harryhausen.

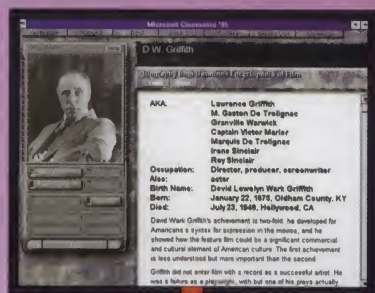
His most famous work was on *Jason and the Argonauts*, a movie which happened to feature Honor Blackman. And her biography notes her career highlight as Pussy Galore in *Goldfinger*. Now we're into the home straight, because Sean Connery – who, of course, plays Bond to Gert Fröbe's

Lights! Camera! CD-ROM!

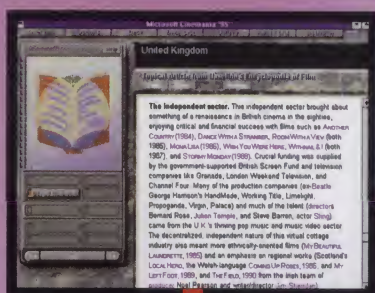
The treasure trove of information that is Cinemania is made up of many, many smaller parts. With text from six books, not to mention audio extracts, pictures and videos, there's certainly plenty to keep even the most avid movie buff amused. Here's how it works.



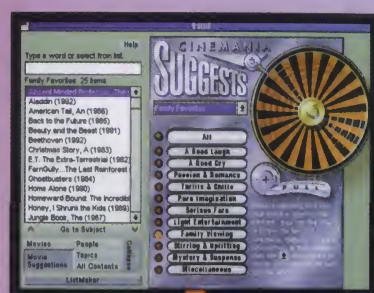
Reviews: most of the information is focused on individual movies – only natural, really. You start off with a picture (if available), then move into Leonard Maltin's review. From there, you can choose any other reviews that are on offer.



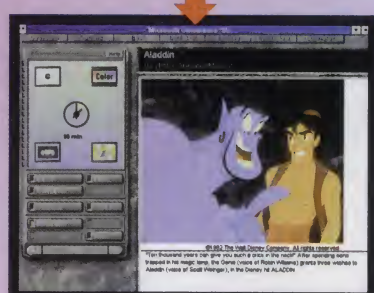
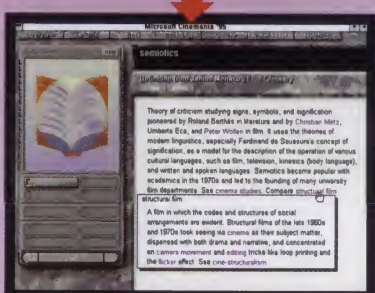
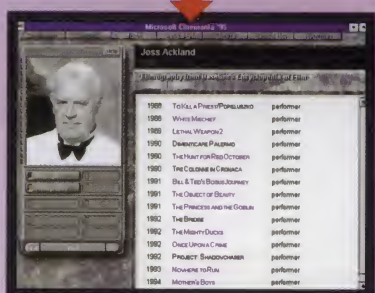
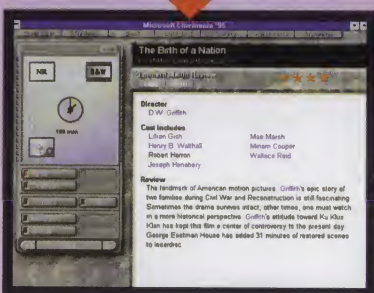
Biographies: there are over 4,100 profiles of movie biz personalities, with complete filmographies. Here I chose D.W. Griffith because he directed *Birth of a Nation*; Joss Ackland purely because I felt like it. And I met him, once. Nice chap.



Articles: there are numerous essays on movie-related topics, from lengthy analyses of each country's filmmaking history to brief definitions (with hypertext) of more academic concepts such as, here, the still-trendy notion of semiotics.



Cinemania Suggests: the most significant new feature of this '95 edition, this is basically a collection of lists which can be accessed at random. Here, we picked 'Family Viewing', were offered 'Family Favourites' and picked *Aladdin*.

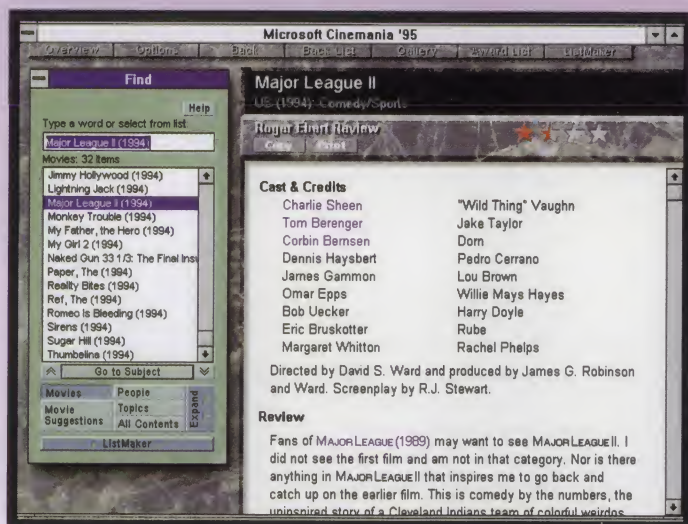


This feature allows you to indulge in a whole new level of information surfing, as extraordinary diversions take you on improbable journeys with an ease that could never be matched by any book.

But no matter how far you may stray from your original line of enquiry, you never get lost. A couple of deeply useful functions allow you to retrace your steps at any time, or to view the route you've taken and skip back to any part of it at will.

If it all sounds a little manic and harebrained, don't worry; beneath all the pyrotechnics there's an immense collection of solid information. You've got the complete text of Leonard Maltin's *Movie and Video Guide 1995*, with workmanlike reviews of over 19,000 films. You've got around 1,700 more in-depth reviews from Roger Ebert's *Video Companion 1995*, each one lively, incisive and likeably personal.

You also have more than 2,600 reviews from Pauline Kael's



▲ The four different review sources all offer unique perspectives. Roger Ebert's are the most consistently entertaining: here he rubbishes *Major League 2*. This extract continues with the words "The humour is so predictable, forced and awkward that the actors sometimes seem like helpless bystanders." Ha ha.

5001 Nights at the Movies – excellent pieces of criticism that are, sadly, prone to injudicious cutting. There are still more features from CineBook's superb *Motion Picture Guide* and *Encyclopedia of Film*, along with extensive excerpts from James Monaco's *How to Read a Film* and Ephraim Katz's *The Film Encyclopedia*.

It all fits together seamlessly, with flexible and easy-to-use search options that make the job of tracking down a particular movie-related nugget quite straightforward.

Different reviews of the same films are grouped together for easy comparison, and the variation in styles and approaches between the chosen reviewers makes for a highly stimulating series of perspectives.

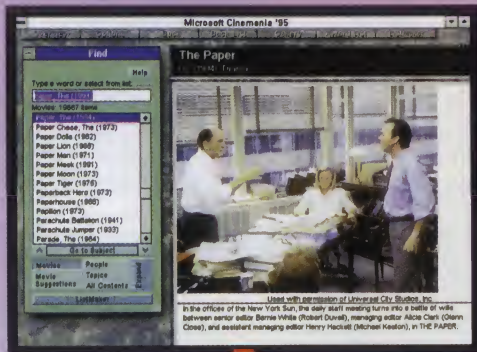
And then, as if that weren't enough, there's the whole area of 'multimedia'. *Cinemania* is designed to be as entertaining as the movies it talks about, and comes replete with more than 1,000 still photographs (each one excellent), 162 excerpts of memorable dialogue, 137 pieces of music and 22 video clips.

Each enhancement serves a different purpose: the video clips are purely for show, and don't pretend to be anything more than cute extras; the sound clips evoke

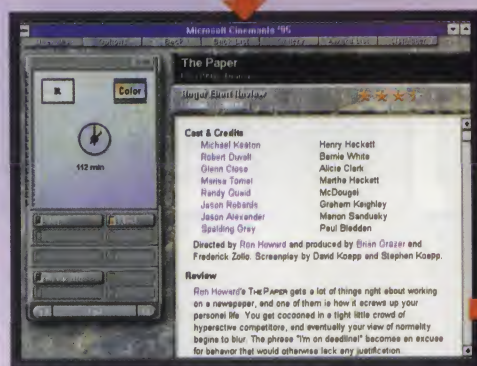
Continued overleaf ►

Cinemaniania '95 frame by frame...

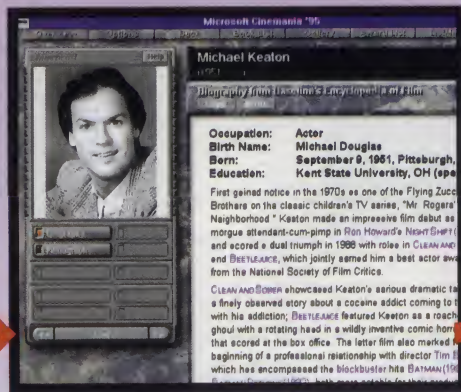
There's nothing I like more than taking a random wander through a mass of fascinating information. So let's take a stroll through Cinemaniania '95...



We'll start with *The Paper*, for no other reason than it's new for the '95 edition, and it just happens to be the last film I saw.



You've got a picture, review and cast list – should we want to find out more about any actors or actresses, we just click on their names and, as if by magic, we're rewarded with complete biographies...

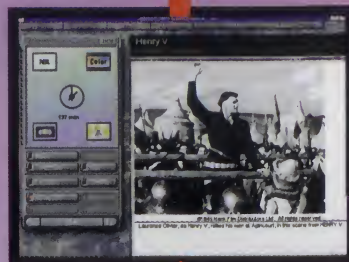


Michael Keaton was great in *The Paper* – certainly much better than when playing Dogberry in *Much Ado About Nothing*, which his filmography rather helpfully points us to...

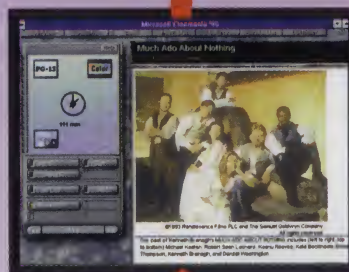


...from Olivier's biography, we're just one step away from a list of his greatest works. Let's finish up with an all-time classic, and one of my personal favourites...

Anyway, here's Sir Larry, rallying the troops as he was so wont to do. Cinemaniania features detailed lists of Academy Award winners and nominees since 1927, so...



...and from the associated entry on Shakespeare, we can jump to *Henry V* – although we could of course have looked at director Kenneth Branagh's filmography, noted his *Henry V* and jumped to Olivier's from there.



From previous page

fond recollections of the movies that you've seen, and the photographs put faces to names, making the process of exploration much more rewarding.

This being a brand-new edition for 1995 there are, as you'd expect, a number of additions... although I'll tell you right now that if you've already bought *Cinemaniania '94* you'd be pretty foolish to blow your money on this ever-so-slightly updated version.

Most obviously, all the information has been overhauled, and the disc now includes up-to-the-minute reviews of recent films such as *Four Weddings and a Funeral* and *The Lion King* – and even some that have yet to be released in the UK, such as Bill Forsythe's *Being Human*. Filmographies have been updated, and major events like the death of

River Phoenix have been incorporated into the text where appropriate.

There are several new photographs to accompany these latest entries, and a few musical snippets, but disappointingly there are no recent video clips. The '94 set has remained largely intact, with the most contemporary excerpt still *The Silence of the Lambs* (1991). Strangely, though, *Dances With Wolves* has been removed, to be replaced by *The 39 Steps* and *Jaws*. Hmm.

The search interface has been significantly improved, becoming even more flexible, and there's one entirely new feature – Cinemaniania Suggests is a series of movie lists that aims to recommend a number of suitable films, at random, appropriate to your 'mood'. If you request A Good Laugh, for

example, you could be offered the choice between British Comedies, Great Comedy Teams or Screwball Comedies. Probably not a great deal of use, but a bit of fun nonetheless.

Look, the message is pretty simple: buy *Cinemaniania '95*. It's amazing. And now it's even slicker and smarter than it was last year.

The enhancements don't merit an additional purchase by owners of the earlier version, but should just about convince anyone who hasn't yet bought the thing to hand over their cash, and walk away with one of the most incredible pieces of home computer software the world has ever seen. You won't be disappointed.

Information

Cinemaniania '95 is published by Microsoft (☎ 01734 270001), and should retail for around £45. It can manage with 4Mb of RAM, requires Windows and a dual speed CD-ROM drive, and is at its most effective when used with an SVGA display.

Excellent

★★★★★

THE ROCK VIDEO MOVING PUZZLE GAME



Features full length
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Soundgarden
**Red Hot
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Aerosmith
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VID GRID starts easy but has over 500 degrees of difficulty - and if you get stuck, you can get help from up to 10 other players. Or you can simply get into the sounds of rock giants Aerosmith, Guns N' Roses, Soundgarden, Red Hot Chilli Peppers, Metallica, Van Halen, Ozzy Osbourne, Peter Gabriel and Jimi Hendrix.

VID GRID is totally addictive and boasts awesome music - **SO PLAY IT LOUD!**



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WINDOWS
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CD ROM



Virgin Interactive Entertainment (Europe) Ltd,
338A Ladbroke Grove, London W10 5AH, United Kingdom.



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Published 1994 by Virgin Interactive Entertainment (Europe) Ltd.

AS SEEN ON
MTV

► The street outside your office, where you'll spend much of your time, especially at the beginning, exploring the immediate area and quizzing the local inhabitants.



Top titles Under a Killing Moon

The first in a new generation of blockbuster interactive movies? Or a pointless white elephant, full of half-baked ideas and limited by frustrating technical flaws? Jon Smith slips on his fedora and a grubby trenchcoat and investigates...

Now here's a funny thing. *Under a Killing Moon* has turned out to be one of the most amazing, disappointing, brilliant, rubbish, innovative, conventional games ever. Confusing, isn't it?

We've promoted *Under a Killing Moon* from the games section to the front of the magazine for a number of reasons. Firstly, it's one of the biggest CD-ROM releases ever – not just in sheer physical size, although it does fill up four entire discs, but also in terms of the huge marketing campaign that has kept millions of PC owners aware of its impending release for many, many months now.

More importantly, though, *Under a Killing Moon* is worthy of attention because it's the first in a new series of big-budget high-profile 'next generation' CD-ROM



◀ You can call up this map at any time. New places of interest appear as you discover them, and disappear once you're done with them. You can travel to any location simply by selecting it; a small animation will show you walking if it's nearby or hopping into your hover-car and flying there if it's a bit more of a trek.

games – or, as they like to be called, 'interactive movies'.

Building on the successes of titles like *The 7th Guest* and *The Journeyman Project*, but learning from their mistakes, these games are roping in top-quality Hollywood talent to attract a new audience of non-gameplaying computer users.

Well, in this case at least, 'top-quality' might be a little strong – names like Brian Keith, Margot Kidder and Russell Means will only be known to a few buffs – but

there's always the voice of James Earl Jones, a precious commodity that has seemingly become *de rigueur* for any halfway serious multimedia production.

So, anyway, to the game. Beneath all the glossy pretensions, this is a remarkably conventional adventure. You take control of a single character – a rumpled private detective with the unlikely monicker of Tex Murphy – and steer him through a series of puzzling encounters, searching locations, collecting objects and using these artefacts to progress further. Find an object and it's added to your inventory for subsequent retrieval; several objects can be 'combined' into a new, more useful, implement... all these elements will be quite familiar to any seasoned adventurer.

But *Under a Killing Moon* has refined the formula in two particularly notable ways. Most successfully, it creates a fully-explorable 3D 'virtual' world – an interconnected set of computer-generated rooms, corridors and streets that are viewed from a first person perspective which you 'walk' around simply by moving the mouse.

Giant steps are what you take...

Under a Killing Moon is a complex and initially baffling mixture of different elements. Certainly those uninitiated in the ways of adventure games will have their work cut out making head or tail of it. But here's a brief breakdown of the four basic parts...



Cinematic cut-scenes: lengthy movie sequences drive the plot, coming after the completion of each section. In addition, some of your actions will result in shorter scenes, like this piano-playing episode.



Exploration: Most of your time will be spent wandering around beautifully-rendered 3D environments, from the mundane (this hotel bedroom) to the fantastic (this Earth-orbiting Eden).



Conversation: to progress through the adventure, you'll also have to talk to the various characters you encounter in your explorations. Three choices of dialogue offer themselves at every encounter.



Puzzles: most of the puzzles require you to find an object (such as this wine glass), then 'use' it to perform an action in a different place. There are other sub-puzzles, too, like this annoying control panel.



Much of the action sees you probing nooks and corners for hidden clues in this way; but there's another major aspect to the game: in your travels, you'll come across a fairly substantial number of other characters, with whom you can 'converse' to glean vital pieces of information.

This is where the game turns, allegedly, into an 'interactive movie', because each of these characters is played by an actor, whose filmed responses will alter depending on the manner in which you steer your conversation. Introduce yourself politely and you'll probably find people fairly receptive to your pleas for information; continually make sarcastic personal remarks and you'll find their responses somewhat tougher.

What we have, then, is an interesting and largely successful balance between hands-on gameplay and more passive movie-style sequences. The free-movement sections are great; most objects are hidden cunningly behind, under or on top of other



▲ Some of the cinematic sequences take up the whole screen, but this is basically what you'll see for most of the game. The buttons on the right allow you to control your inventory, and to load and save games; the space at the bottom is for dialogue subtitles. The three lines at the bottom right offer your conversational choices.

items, and you often have to crouch, or look up and down, to find them. With the locations looking so gloriously realistic, there's a real thrill to be gained from this process of detection.

The film-based sections build on this action, with a complex plot gradually revealing itself, to absorb you further into the game's fantasy world... or that's the theory, at least. Unfortunately, the acting is

patchy, the humour lame and the script, on the whole, pretty terrible.

It's just so disappointing to see *Under a Killing Moon* break new ground technically, with nicely-integrated video footage, and take real trouble over its gameplay, supplying you with a variety of well thought-out puzzles, then blow it all with some characters and dialogue that are really nothing short of embarrassing.

The lengthy introduction sequence, a confusing collection of empty clichés, gets things off to a very poor start, and the game never really recovers. Mixing genres with naïve abandon, it lurches continually from retro-detective to sci-fi to horror to slapstick, completely failing to create a consistent tone or atmosphere.

Fundamental errors of judgement – endless wisecrack remarks that just aren't funny; the lazy, derivative plot; a monotonous stream of half-dressed and sexually provocative female characters – are compounded by an intrusively self-

Continued overleaf ►

The dark side of the Moon...

Under a Killing Moon is set in a seedy world of chancers, deadbeats and organised crime. Here are some of the many characters you'll run into...



This is you, Tex Murphy, Private Investigator. Here we have a shot from the opening intro, where (in one of the more hamfisted pieces of slapstick that litter the game) you have inadvertently thrown your gun out of the window – a cruel trick from the programmers.



Look at the photograph of your wife that stands on your desk and you'll 'remember' this rather dislikable sequence where she tries it on with a visiting upholsterer. Move outside, though...



Francesca Lucido, on the opposite corner, runs the Slice o' Heaven pizza parlour. She's having trouble with her husband, and might ask you to help out...



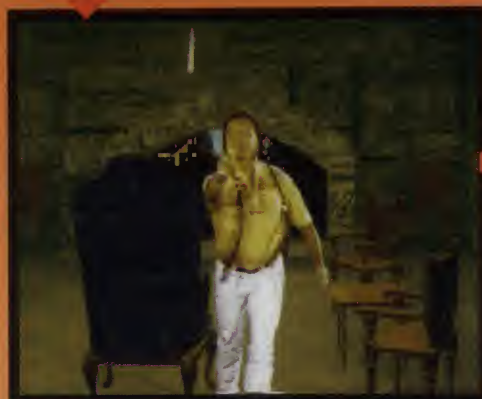
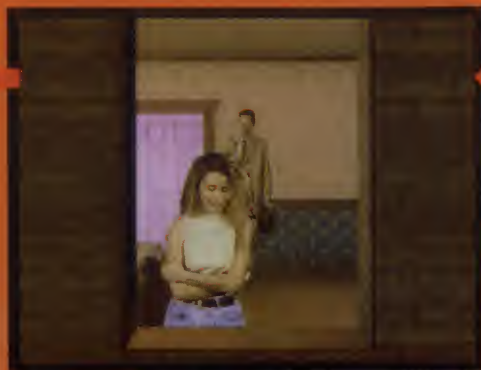
Down on the corner, you'll meet with Louie Lamintz, proprietor and bartender of the appetisingly-titled Brew 'n' Stew. Yummy. Louie himself, being a mutant, is not the most attractive of propositions, either.



...and you'll meet Chelsea, who runs the newsstand across the street. She's helpful at first, but becomes of little use later on.

...by this unfriendly fellow, the not inaccurately named Chameleon. He may have long hair, but he's got a short temper; try calling his hairstyle girly and he'll chuck this knife at you.

Alaynah Moore is another 'babe in trouble' (UAKM does not have a massive amount of strong female characters). She even gets kidnapped...



◀ From previous page

conscious directorial style.

There are technical problems, too. Every time you move into a new location, for example, a huge amount of data needs to be read from the CD, resulting in a wait of around twenty seconds. It's just about bearable, but happens with such frequency that, at times, you will find it a genuine irritation. And while the locations themselves are, for the most part, impressively solid and convincing, many of the objects within them exist only as two-dimensional sprites, so they often appear as cardboard props, which ruins the illusion.

But, despite all these faults, *Under a Killing Moon* still manages to hold your attention. It is, after all, an extremely ambitious piece of work, and you stick with it through all the dodgy bits because, once every now and then, it really does

surprise you with something you've never seen before.

The 'comedy' may be more miss than hit, but can raise a titter from time to time. And there's a great end sequence. But the puzzles are, without doubt, the best thing about the game. They make a kind of common sense, while still being (usually) lateral enough to require a bit of thought. There are even a few red herrings.

So, despite all my reservations, I did find the adventure sufficiently interesting to merit completion. For the record, this took around 14 hours; whether you believe this represents sufficient value for money is a matter entirely between you and your wallet. I had to use the excellent on-line help system three times – twice near the beginning and once right at the end – so a more adept (or

Information

Under A Killing Moon was developed by Access, the American software company best known for the *Links* series of golf games. Access has also managed a couple of adventure games, notably *Martian Memorandum*, to which this is the nominal sequel.

It's distributed by US Gold (☎ 0121 625 3366), and costs £59.99 – the high price apparently justified because the game takes up four full discs. It requires 10Mb of hard disk space, SVGA display and 4Mb RAM, but won't run satisfactorily without a double-speed drive, a 486 processor and at least 8Mb RAM.

impatient) player could probably complete the game even faster.

As I stated at the beginning, then, *Under a Killing Moon* is a mixed bag of irreconcilable pros and cons. And as such, it's almost impossible to give it a rating. I've erred on the generous side, though, because I do feel that it achieves something, despite its many off-putting characteristics.

There's an infectious enthusiasm about the whole production; it has a refreshing energy that suggests the team genuinely believed it was doing something new and important. Yes, it can lapse into cliché and, yes, it can be very frustrating but, gosh-darn it, I kind of liked it. And that's all I can say.

Good

★★★★☆

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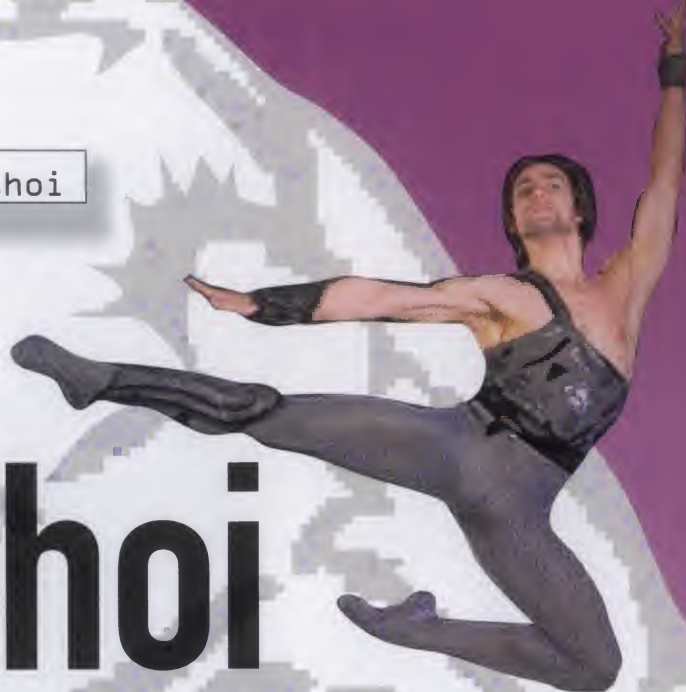
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Top titles

The Bolshoi



Nutcracker, Swan Lake, Sleeping Beauty – the music is familiar, but what's the best way to get into the dancing? This Bolshoi Ballet CD-ROM could be a step in the right direction. Rob Ainsley puts on his tutu and finds out.



he Bolshoi Ballet – or, if you want to assume a Russian accent, the Bal-shooooi Ba-lyet – is the most famous in the world, and this CD-ROM offers you this celebrated company in a way no combination of book, video and CD could.

You get half-minute video clips of the Bolshoi in action (40 minutes in all), accompanying sound extracts played by the Bolshoi Orchestra (an hour in all) plus still pictures and background notes (a small book's worth) from six ballets: Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*, *Swan Lake* and *Sleeping Beauty*, Prokofiev's *Romeo and Juliet* and *Ivan the Terrible*, and Khachaturian's *Spartacus*.

Familiar music, but what about the dancing? The program doesn't attempt to explain any theory – if you don't know a jeté from an entrechat you won't be enlightened. But you don't need to be. All the plots are explained clearly as you click page-by-page through the ballets, and at the critical points you are presented with the video extracts of the dancing: the language of ballet movement becomes clearer when it's so firmly put in context like this. The Bolshoi's sets and choreography are firmly traditional – tutus aplenty in *Swan Lake*, for



▲ The title screen shows the 'Bolshoi Theatre' setting that's used for all the ballet video clips. Later in the program you can find sumptuous interior and exterior pics of the real theatre.

example. And the dancing is of the high standard you'd expect, although it's terribly difficult to make it out in the small window of grainy, colourless video. There's an full-screen MPEG version of this disc available, though, which rectifies this problem.

The musical extracts were recorded live, and give a great feeling of 'being there' – a dry acoustic sound and audience applause in the spectacular bits, such as the Chinese and Russian dances in the *Nutcracker*. But again, compression works against

the sound-quality: long high notes (flutes, oboes, violins) burble a little irritatingly.

Background text is generally very good and incisive when related to the ballets. But, as translations from Russian usually are, it can be text-bookish (not enticing for kids), and – again characteristically Russian – gets fidgety about Tchaikovsky's homosexuality ("an aberration in his emotional make-up": come on, this is 1995!). Some essential biog stuff ought to have been included – you're never told the composers' dates, for example. You can't move around very freely either – move out of a ballet sequence to find more about what all the symbolism means and you have to start at the beginning of the ballet again. You can see on screen (or print) piano versions of the Tchaikovsky extracts, but click to hear the orchestra and nothing indicates which notes are playing – you have to be able to follow a score.

But overall this offers something unique. It's a great way of getting into these superb ballets and will definitely increase your enjoyment and understanding of six masterpieces.

Information

The Bolshoi at the Bolshoi is published by CD Vision (☎ 0181 503 0588) and costs £39.99. An MPEG version, giving full-screen video quality to suitably upgraded PCs, is also available, costing £49.99.

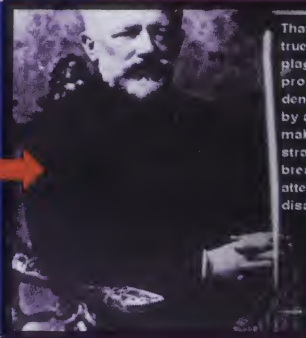
Pretty good



Cracking stuff...

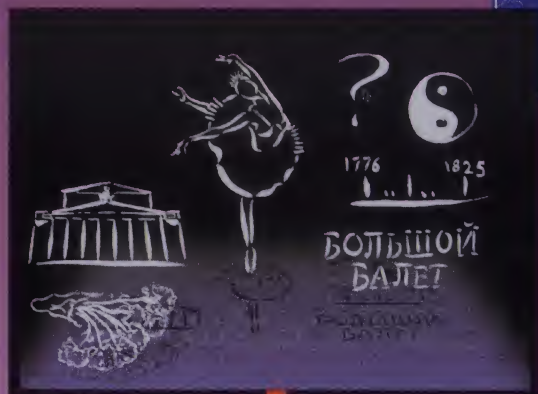
There are six ballets covered in the Bolshoi disc, as well as background stuff about the history of the ballet itself. Here's what you might see if you decided to delve into Tchaikovsky's ever-popular Nutcracker Suite ...

A few pages about how Nutcracker was composed and what it all meant to him. Good pics of Pyotr Ilyich, but rather overcautious text. The only exit is back to the previous menu from here.



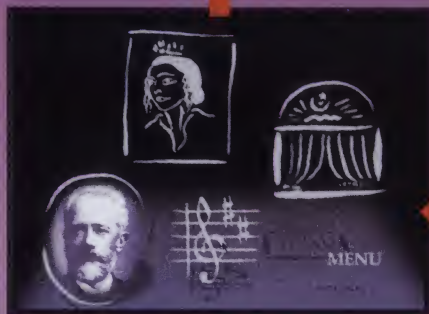
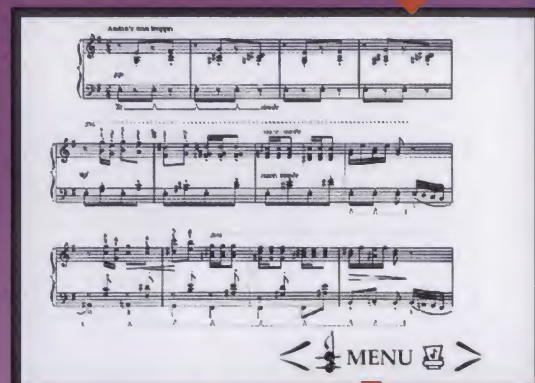
That, however, was too good to be true. In fact, he was an unhappy man plagued by a formidable emotional problem since his youth. He was denied the simple joys of family life by an aberration in his emotional make-up. The permanent mental strain had ended in a severe nervous breakdown at a young age when he attempted suicide after his hasty and disastrous marriage.

Click on the music icon from the previous menu and up come scores of famous bits as the orchestra plays. You have to bring up the next page manually, so you must be able to follow a score.



The main menu. Click on various icons and you get a history of the Bolshoi building, the Bolshoi Ballet itself, an explanation of motifs in ballet plots, a timeline, quit the program (the flowers - neat eh?) or find out more about the ballets. I want to do that, so I'll click on the ballet dancer...

Clickable options here will take you to notes about Tchaikovsky, a picture gallery, printable sheet music and sound extracts.



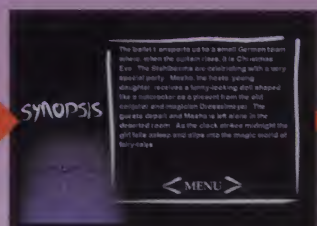
You get a three- or four-page synopsis of the plot and can click forward or back through it (the < or >), or of course return to the previous menu. Click through it and I get to...



Again, from the previous menu, the portrait icon takes you to a picture gallery of famous Bolshoi dancers of this century in main roles from the ballet in question. These are of the Nutcracker Prince himself.

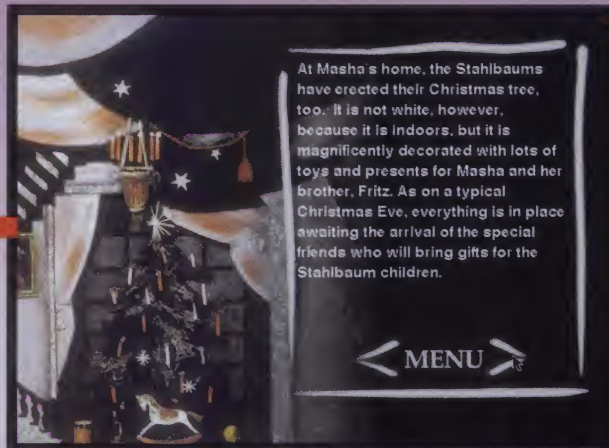


Each icon represents a ballet. If you want the actual titles on screen as well, click on the question mark. The Nutcracker is the Christmas Tree icon (it's set at Christmas) so I click on that...

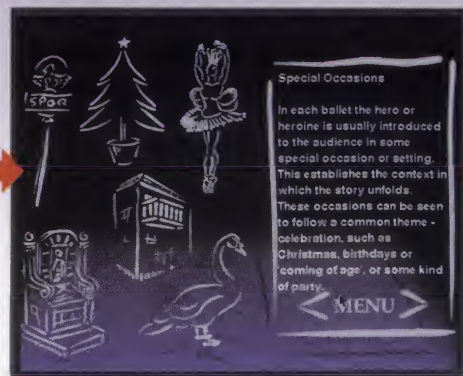
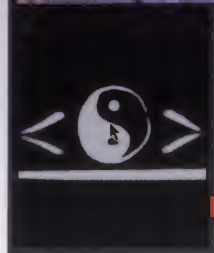


...and others have the icon (seen below) which takes you to the 'motif' pages. These describe the general principles of symbolism in ballet plots, and have the key to understanding the goodies from the baddies.

The performance icon takes you to the nitty-gritty. You click through pages which describe the plot, each illustrated by nice colour pics. Some pages have a music icon you can click on to hear music extracts...



Later, he turns into a handsome prince, he and Masha marry: royal wedding of the year. When will the tabloids start on revelations about their private lives?



The motif pages have the ballet icons so you can return to them. But hang on: you're not returned to where you were - you have to go from the start again. Irritating!



Back in the Nutcracker performance, here's a video clip. It's animated, so looks better than this still suggests. This is where the Nutcracker - the bloke in red - first appears to the little girl Masha.

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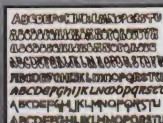
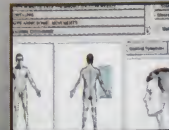


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ROCK RAP N' ROLL by Paramount Interactive

If you can click a mouse you can make great music! This breakthrough in music making software will let you produce the hottest sounds you've ever heard from a PC. No musical experience is necessary.

MULTIMEDIA JUMPSTART by Microsoft

An informative disc on virtually every aspect of multimedia. Learn how developers integrate multimedia into everyday applications. Also includes useful tools such as the Video for Windows v1.1 SDK, sample media, a host of articles and sample code.



SPACE QUEST by Sierra On-Line

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Top titles

The New Dictionary of the Living World

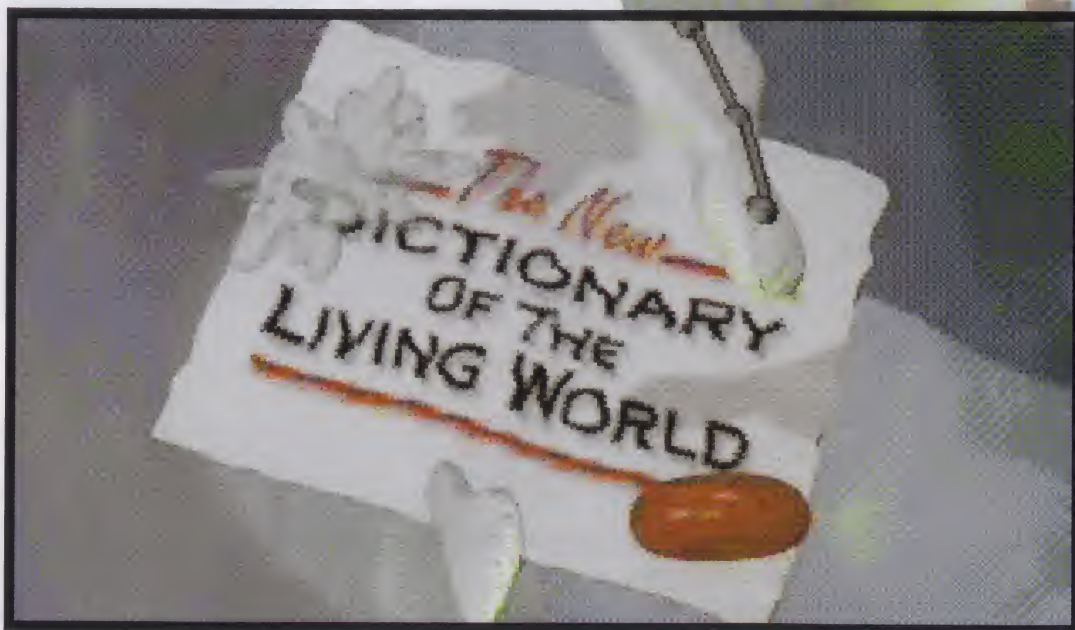
Mountain-like in its proportions, *The New Dictionary of the Living World* takes you from the highest peaks to the depths of the oceans, showing you an enormous variety of life forms. It's a CD that should interest any biology student or amateur naturalist.

Much, much bigger than the previous *Dictionary of the Living World*, this completely renovated resource has a huge volume of information as its bedrock. It boasts a 500,000-word encyclopedia covering entries from aardvark to zygote and doesn't skimp on anything between.

Although most of the items available are short text definitions, every fifth or sixth entry goes into greater depth, with two or three screens of text. Around 600 feature photographs that can be blown up to full screen size. There are also 66 video clips, and using Indeo video software, they run smoothly and with acceptable definition. You can blow the videos up to an 11-inch window as well, but this makes them look four times as chunky.

Largely, however, the videos are too short and unrevealing. Most last about 15 seconds and don't show the animals doing much in particular. You'll see a forest buffalo flicker its ears, and pan the length of an alligator, but there's not much excitement. The videos have no sound either. That's okay

Nature, the laboratory of life, is a fascinating and intricate world. Garrick Webster dons his white coat and dissects MDI's latest biology disc and finds that where there's life there's hope.



▲ The New Dictionary of the Living World's intro sequence shows off some of the 3D rendered animation you'll find on the disc. Here, the title is floating among cell organelles.

when you're looking at fish, but generally disappointing.

Stand-alone sounds are available with 79 animal entries, adding up to around two hours of noise. Sometimes, the sounds are pretty obvious – snakes hissing, lions roaring – but with the broad variety of animals for which sound clips are provided it's certainly a strong point of the *New Dictionary*.

Information

The New Dictionary of the Living World is published by MDI and available through Psygnosis (☎ 0151 709 5766) for £44.99. It runs in Windows, and a 486 processor is recommended.

Along with the songs of many birds, you can hear the barks of hyenas, the growls of Tasmanian devils or the screaming of the Amazonian jaguar.

The most useful way of navigating the information is the search function. Basically, you can enter up to four words to be searched for, bridged by the operators and/or/not. So, if you're

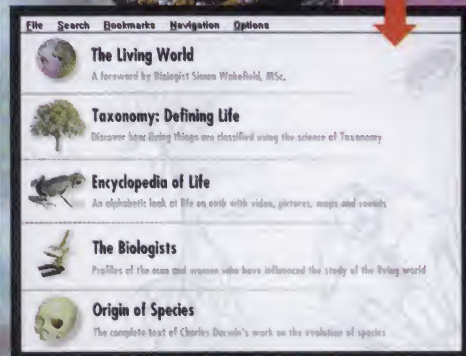
Continued overleaf ►

On the nature trail...

Plants and creatures from every habitat on earth are brought to life by sound and video as well as text in this huge volume. Navigation is better achieved through specific subject searches than by browsing.



The New Dictionary of the Living World exceeds its predecessor by four chapters, and has a whole lot more multimedia as well.



...Luckily, creatures like this mongoose form a natural balance with the viper situation. Photos on the disc can be expanded to fill the screen.

Click on the globe icon and you can look at the distribution map of vipers around the world - which is pretty extensive...

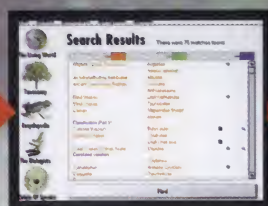
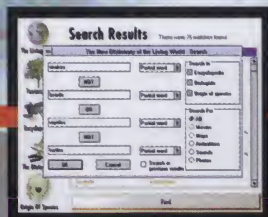


First we'll start with the foreword by Simon Wakefield, a biologist who explains what the disc's about in general, accompanied by a slide show of images from the disc.

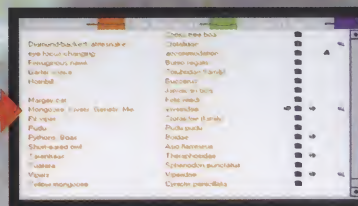
This is the main entry on vipers, with pretty interesting text; various other icons allow you to return to the listing, do another search, place a marker note with the entry or see videos and hear sounds if available.



You can go straight to the encyclopedia section of the disc, if you want, but it's huge. A search for the specific information you want is more the way to go. Here, we're going to investigate some snakes.



Finding 75 entries on snakes, we can have a look at them, or limit our search a little more by choosing to list only the ones that include photos.



Now we've narrowed it down to the 18 entries on snakes and related topics that include photos. So, what kind of snake are you interested in?

looking for information on wild canines, for instance, you can enter 'wolves and foxes' or 'hyenas not dogs'. You can limit searches to entries that contain the multimedia features, and by popular demand, MDI has added a function that enables you to switch the listing from the scientific names of species to their common names.

On top of more photos, more distribution maps and more videos, the *New Dictionary* uses 3D animations to illustrate some points. Four new chapters have also been added, including the full text of Darwin's *Origin of Species* and a chapter containing the biographies of around 150 important biological scientists.

The taxonomy section will

► To illustrate many biological phenomena, the disc uses 3D animations, like this one of a bacterium swimming along minding its own business.



introduce you to the logic of plant and animal classification. Working through the classification of the iris and the bald eagle as examples, it then lets you explore the system yourself by going through the kingdoms, phyla, classes, orders and families of organisms. Great for budding biologists, no doubt.

Another addition is the introduction chapter, which is basically a slide show with narration by biologist Simon Wakefield. This is adequate, and gives an overview of what the disc's all about, but it's slightly uninspiring.

For anyone seriously interested in biology, this disc will prove a valuable resource. It's not really for browsers, but it's huge on information about both plant and animal species. Far superior to its predecessor, it's also far more objective, broad ranging and detailed than the many populist nature discs available. Its only drawback is that it's pretty dry.

Good

★★★★☆

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Come in and see us

When you've digested the reviews, why not pop along and try things out

hands-on? It's the only way to avoid disappointment. At last there's one shop that's dedicated to the exciting world of children and multimedia. In fact, now there's two! Kingston upon Thames and Watford.

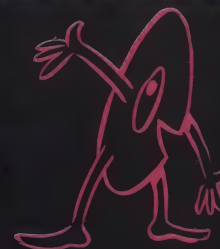
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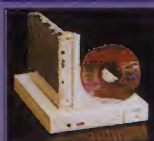
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ROMEDIA TOP TEN

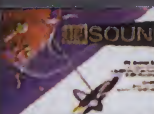
1. Zargon Zoo! The edutainment title for all ages£39.00
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3. VAT needs to be added to all quoted pricing.



► For those of you who've been dying to know where you can buy Wiggins in Storyland, it's now owned by Virgin Interactive, so get dialling.

Letters

The postman delivered a stack of letters this month. It's always nice to hear from our readers, especially those who are new to the world of multimedia. And of course, we're here to help as usual.

Encarta inspiration

I recently picked up a copy of *CD-ROM Today* from my newsagent, on a whim.

Star letter

I was amazed at what is available on CD-ROM. Your reviews covered a wide range of subjects – I thought computers were mainly for games freaks.

The encyclopedia feature was really informative, and I was particularly impressed by your review of *Encarta* – I have to have it! *CD-ROM Today* has made me realise what I'm missing out on, and I'm now seriously looking into buying a multimedia PC.

Peter Armitage,
Manchester

It's always nice to have a satisfied customer. You might find some useful information below.

Which computer?

Returning to the world of computers after a two year break, I found the computing industry of 1992 bears little resemblance to the present day.

I am eager to rejoin the realm of computing. CD-ROM seems to be where it's at, but which computer, which processor? Should I opt for a Power PC, or the speed of a Pentium? The user-friendliness of an Apple Mac or the flexibility of a PC? Help!

Jonathan Khan,
Hertfordshire

We always recommend a PC because there is a greater choice of software and no compatibility problems. Our hardware experts are always tempted to recommend a Pentium. If that's going to break your bank, however, try this little bundle: a 486DX2 66MHz, with 16 Mb of RAM, a Diamond Stealth 64 graphics card, double or quad-speed CD-ROM drive (Philips or NEC) and a 15-inch monitor.

If you can wait a month or two, you might even try out a PCTV or Spectria. (See page 20 for details.)

Where is Wiggins?

You recently reviewed a CD-ROM called *Wiggins in Storyland*. There was a demo on the coverdisc.

The contact for obtaining the full version was quoted as Computer Manuals, but this

company denies all knowledge of the CD.

Please could you tell me where I can buy a copy?

Miss K Bridges
Newmarket

Wiggins in Storyland is now available from Virgin Interactive (☎ 0181 960 2255) as Media Vision has recently sold the distribution rights for this title.

What about Macs?

With regard to December's issue of *CD-ROM Today*, I felt compelled to write.

The free publication that came with the issue, *101 CD-ROM Essentials*, by Damien Noonan, was an excellent publication, but not of much use to Mac owners. It was completely and utterly biased towards PCs, giving the

impression that there are no other options for multimedia computers.

Macs aren't just an expensive option, making it valid to ignore them. They are far more user friendly. All new Macs can drive a monitor without the need and expense of an additional graphic card. Sound cards aren't needed and support for video in and out often comes as standard. Not many PCs can have the ability to capture audio/video sequences and write them back to the same media.

The only mention of Macs was Power Macs. Wow, one whole section.

Multimedia isn't restricted to PCs. It would be nice if magazines like yours could remember that.

Paul R Seymour
Erith, Kent

Ooof! Going PC-only this month must be a double blow to Mac owners after 101 CD-ROM Essentials, which, we admit, was thoroughly PC biased. Our apologies go out to any Mac readers still with us.

As for those of you with PCs, now we're going to serve you that much better!



▲ If you're thinking of taking the plunge into the world of multimedia, Encarta '95 could provide you with the motivation to splash out on a PC.

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Rated 94% by PC Answers
This game is hot!



Supports dual joystick and
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Are you tired of PC beat-em-up games that don't live up to their hype? Both PC Gamer and PC Power say "you won't be disappointed" with One Must Fall 2097. PC Answers calls it "outstanding", PC Home calls it "a must" and PC Gamer says it "plays brilliantly". With the exception of their pretty graphics PC Gamer says One Must Fall 2097 is "better in every regard" than that other, over-hyped, robot fighting game.

In One Must Fall 2097 you pilot giant 90ft robots that fight with the kind of real arcade "feel" and playability you've been waiting for in PC beat-em-up games. Play head-to-head against your friends or fight your way through

increasingly difficult tournaments. Use your winnings to upgrade, trade robots and purchase training in an attempt to defeat diverse enemies. One Must Fall 2097 features multi-channel, metal-crushing sound effects and heart-pounding digital music.

One Must Fall 2097 is only £29.99. Or, get the game, the 60-page Strategy Guide and a 17x22 inch color poster for only £34.99. Call us if you really want to 'rise' to the top of PC fighting games.

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Reviews

This month we take a detailed look at atlases, dinosaur discs and comedy CD-ROMs. There's a fascinating variety of other discs too, and games galore.

Our ratings explained

Here's how we rate reviews so that you can actually decide what to buy, based on our advice...

STAR RATINGS

We have a nice simple star rating to tell you what we think of the disc overall. The rating is out of five stars and uses halves too, so two-and-a-half stars is average.

Our decisions are a mix of everything – the contents and presentation of a disc are important, but so is whether or not it's good value. If a disc looked great, was beautiful to use and was packed with everything you could want and more besides, and yet cost too much, we'd mark it down a bit.

You're not too likely to see a perfect five – discs that good are few and far between. However, there are special awards for discs that obtain four or four-and-a-half stars.

Excellent



BEST BUY

Discs rated with four stars can receive this award, which simply means that if you're keen on a particular type of CD-ROM – if you're looking for an encyclopedia, if you're a space games fan, if you like movies – then you can't go wrong by buying this disc.

**Best
buy**

EDITOR'S CHOICE

Four-and-a-half star discs are awarded this mighty honour, which means that we think anyone who has a multimedia machine would get genuine enjoyment and value out of this particular disc. It also marks out a disc as a shining example for other publishers to follow.

**Editor's
choice**

The CD-ROM Today multimedia extras

There are some very clever conventions nowadays which are used by lots of multimedia discs to help you find information. So we've stolen a couple of them! Here's how they work...

HYPERTEXT

'Key words', in bold and coloured in the main copy of an article (**Like this**), are hot-linked to additional information in the sidebar. The extra information is always as close as possible to the key words.

See also

More multimedia pop music discs! p100 →

'SEE ALSO' BUTTONS

These yellow buttons accompany other reviews which look at discs

similar to those that are covered in the main feature. They could be hard-to-find or very specialised titles that we don't feel merit a fuller review or, occasionally, they could be brief 're-caps' on discs that we reviewed a little while ago, for comparison with those in the main feature.

System requirements

We could have put full machine requirements for every disc reviewed, but that, we felt, would simply be confusing. What we've done, then, is to assume a minimum requirement, detailed below, and only mention specific requirements if they are significantly lower or higher than our standard.



PC

We're using the new MPC2 multimedia PC specification (recently revised downwards, actually) which specifies a 25MHz 486SX processor, 160Mb hard disk, 4Mb of RAM (preferably 8Mb), Super VGA graphics to display up to 64,000 colours, double-speed CD-ROM drive and a 16-bit sound card. This kit should run just about any multimedia package around.



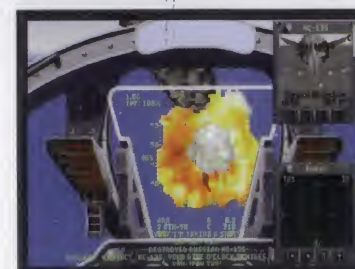
▲ Take a trip around the planet with a 3D Atlas – page 52.



▲ Step back in time and explore the world of the dinosaur – page 70.



▲ Have a laugh at the expense of your mother-in-law – page 83.



▲ Experience the thrill of combat as a US Navy Fighter – page 102.

REVIEWS

ATLASES

3D World

World Atlas

CNN Global View

The Cities Below



In Manchester, there are 0.92 murders per 100,000 people every year; in London, the figure is 2.47 per 100,000; in New York, 12.79; in Miami, the figure is 20.76.
CNN Global View



Nearly 43 million people visit the United States every year; but in excess of 1 million American trips are made abroad every year, too.
Software Toolworks World Atlas



Aboriginal natives of Australia, for whom Ayers Rock is a sacred site, now make up less than 1% of the population of 18 million.
CNN Global View



Some 3,656,500 people live in Sydney. The average male life expectancy is 74.4 years; the average female lives 80.3 years.
Software Toolworks World Atlas

The notorious administrative centre of the USSR, the Kremlin, was originally the Russian Orthodox cathedral of St Basil's, a function to which it has now returned.
EA 3D World Atlas



Peru was invaded by the Spanish in 1531; by 1533 Cusco, the Inca capital, had fallen, weakened by civil war; and by 1542 the Spanish controlled the entire country.
CNN Global View

Kenya makes a good deal of income from tourists visiting its game reserves, but its principal earners are exports of coffee, tea, sisal and meat.
EA 3D World Atlas



Atlases on test

Worldwide Exploration

San Jose was founded in 1777 by the same Franciscan monks who founded San Francisco in 1769. The Spanish authorities used the monasteries to encourage settlers, who received land along with animals, tools and soldier's monthly pay. *Small Blue Planet: The Cities Below*

If you want to find out where Azerbaijan is or see which is the richest nation on earth, an atlas is what you need. Damien Noonan explores four new discs.

In only a few months of reviewing, *CD-ROM Today* has covered more or less every kind of multimedia disc imaginable, and yet this is the second time we've group-tested atlases. Are we getting repetitive? Well, no: not by any means.

Certain types of reference work are ideally suited to multimedia, especially encyclopedias and atlases. For that reason, a number of publishers are tempted to try to do it better than their rivals, and so newer, better approaches are constantly being tried. It's also true to say that CD-ROM is still being explored, and its capacities constantly stretched.

This new batch of atlases is very different from the set of four we reviewed in *issue 2* – and if you're keen on buying an atlas, I'd strongly recommend that you refer back to that article. Six months ago, the emphasis was on traditional maps, digitised or redrawn: now, some new approaches are being tried.

The best example of this is our first atlas this month, Electronic Arts' *3D Atlas*. Instead of presenting a set of flat maps just like you'd find in a printed atlas,

EA have constructed a 'virtual globe' from satellite images, which is interesting not only because it makes for an intriguing way of exploring the countries and cities of the world, but also because it is much closer to the full potential of computer-based multimedia, doing something that you simply couldn't do in print.

Our other three atlases this month also try out many new ideas, but one thing that really struck me when I was putting them through their paces was that none of them has aimed to be comprehensive in the obvious function of an atlas – maps. In actual fact, none of them offers a level of detail that you would expect from a really comprehensive printed atlas. They're all at about the level of a basic, 30-page school atlas.

By far the most comprehensive CD-ROM atlas to date has been DeLorma's *Global Explorer*, which achieved a score of 'Very good' and the Best Buy award in our issue 2 group test. If you're after detailed maps and you're not too interested in postcard pictures or geography lessons, this is still the one to go for. It costs around £117 from Logix (☎ 0181 763 2888).

Continued overleaf



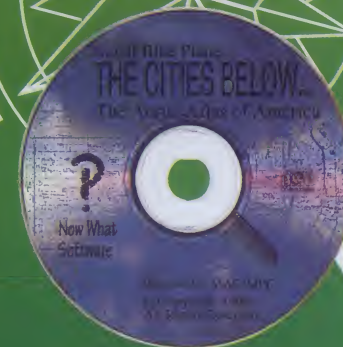
▲ *3D World Atlas* from Electronic Arts costs £84.99 and gets our Best Buy recommendation.



▲ *Software Toolworks World Atlas* costs around £23. An Anglicised version is on its way.



▲ *CNN Newsroom: Global View* is available in this country through Unica and is priced at about £34.



▲ *Small Blue Planet: The Cities Below* brings a satellite's view of the earth to your PC. It costs \$49.95 in the US.

Issue 2 –
Way back in *issue 2* we looked at *The Software Toolworks World Atlas* version 4. Broderbund's rather limited *Maps 'n' Facts*, the impressive *Global Explorer* and *Now What's the Small Blue Planet*.

Start ↓

Globetrotting with 3D World Atlas

Instead of flat maps, the original idea of this disc is to show you the world as it really is: spherical. Electronic Arts has taken satellite images and joined them to create a three-dimensional globe for you to explore.



Our first view is the Environment globe, composed from cloud-free photos of the earth's surface, and there's a list of countries on the right of the screen.



Also hidden in the menu are close-up city views, like this one of London. You can zoom in to find anything from friends' houses to the Tower of London.



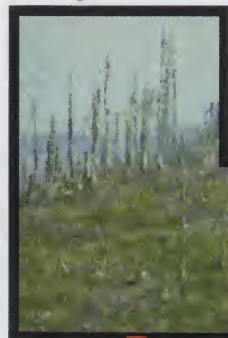
As well as the three main globes, we can choose from several specialist ones, such as this one that shows us the earth's crust.



From a menu, we can choose the Physical globe (relief maps) or the Political globe instead, with its key coloured countries.



Another intriguing diversion is provided by time-lapse images: this set shows the Pinatubo eruption, with a cloud of smoke covering hundreds of square miles.



You can view statistics in all manner of ways, even graphing one set against another, or showing a 'league table' as we've done here with the output of CFCs.

Click on the arrows to see a small slideshow of postcard-style photos.

...and then a screen of information about the country appears. Sometimes there's a menu full of flags, but in Zimbabwe's case only a close-up of the bird symbol is offered. Did you know Zimbabwe had 11 million people, most of whom speak English or Bantu?

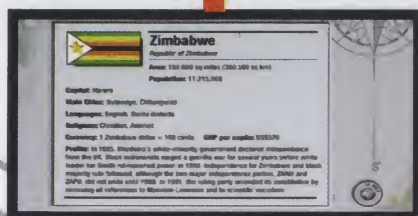
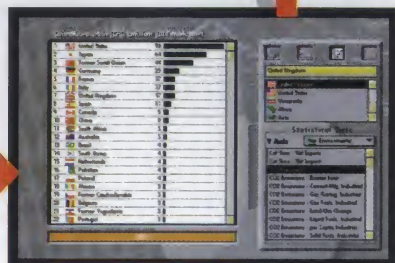


If we select Zimbabwe from the list of countries, it is highlighted on the map and its flag appears on the display. We could change the list to pick out cities, mountains, rivers or all sorts of other things.



Click on the flag or on the map to find out more about Zimbabwe. The map view zooms in automatically...

Elsewhere on the main menu is a choice of videos: this particular set offers short lessons on important topics, such as the effects of acid rain.





▲ Electronic Arts' 3D World Atlas is based around three globes – political, relief and photographic – but also offers a wealth of statistics and some interesting 'geography lessons'.

world's not flat – most maps transform the 3D globe on to flat paper using the standard 'Mercator' projection, and in doing so inevitably distort the shapes of the countries. New projections have become available which are supposed to represent the relative areas of land more realistically: generally, southern hemisphere countries are larger than they usually appear. None of the CD-ROM atlases featured uses any of these new projections, but frankly that's no great loss.

Best buy

Electronic Arts 3D World Atlas

The **world's not flat**. Why should your atlas be? You might reply that a flat atlas would generally take up more than a quarter of the screen: the main display in *3D Atlas* is a 'virtual globe' of somewhat limited dimensions, though in use this doesn't often seem a problem.

There are actually three globes on offer: a multi-coloured political, a green-blue-brown relief, or a photo-based 'environmental' globe. You can spin whichever globe you pick with clicks of the mouse, and zoom in on any area you want.

Each globe is composed from satellite photographs and it's been done very well: when you can see the whole globe, the peripheral countries curve away to the

horizon in a convincing manner. When you zoom right in you can navigate across the terrain, without even noticing where images have been integrated.

Rather than clutter the map with lots of labels, the atlas shows no names until you ask for them. Click on an unidentified area and that country's borders will be highlighted and its name appears.

There's a comprehensive menu system to help you pick out any country, city, continent, volcano, sea or other element.

Additional information is supplied in a one-line display: any city you pick out, for example, has its latitude and longitude and its population listed. With countries, however, there's more. Each nation has a single screen of information covering basic facts such as population, currency, languages, religions, major cities and a brief history, plus postcard photographs. In every case there's the national flag, and in many

"The database of statistics is enormous. It's an incredible resource and figures can be viewed in different charts."

cases there are other flags, too.

This national information is likely to seem somewhat shallow for any particular country you pick, so look on it as an added extra. Far more impressive is the wealth of statistical and geographical extras which would be useful in an



educational environment.

The database of statistics is enormous. It's an incredible resource of data and, even better, the figures can be viewed in a number of different types of chart. You can even graph many sets of statistics against other sets in a 'scatter chart'.

The other main feature is a set of what might be called 'lessons' on specific topics. Some are videos, with narration: the rendered '3D Flights' are rather pathetic, while the 'biome' examples – short mini-documentaries – are useful, if rather trivial.

The non-video elements are better. Photographs have been put together as narrated 'time-lapse' animations, which are quite informative, but the best bits are the alternative globes. These are similar to the main globe displays, but you can't zoom. A narration explains an excellent display of things like the tectonic plates or the heat patterns in the oceans.

There's a lot of good information in this package and it really scores on the statistics and the educational element.

Before this could really take the place of a good, printed atlas, you'd want more detail in the maps: the highest level represents the whole of England in an area about five inches square.

Most disappointing is that it's simply not as much fun as it might be: a snatch of national music from each country, for instance, might have been nice. But you can't have the world in just one atlas.

Atlases – comparison of main features

Atlas	Maps	Statistics	Articles	Videos
3D World	Excellent	Excellent	Reasonable	Reasonable
World Atlas	Reasonable	Excellent	Good	Reasonable
CNN Global View	Reasonable	Excellent	Good	Reasonable
The Cities Below	Poor	None	Reasonable	None

Very good

★★★★★

Continued overleaf ►

Information

We reviewed *3D World Atlas* on the Mac, but the PC version will be released very shortly. It's published by Electronic Arts (t 01 753 549442) and costs \$54.99.

Start ↓

All around the World Atlas

What are we to expect from an atlas now in its fifth version? It's old enough to know what it wants to do: which seems to be simple maps but an extravagant array of multimedia extras. Let's see what it has to say about our own fair land...



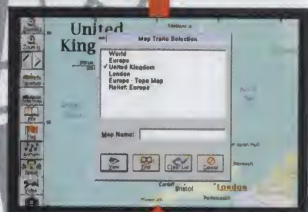
For every country, there's a set of picture postcard images.



The World

We start with a map of the world (no surprises there). Click on a continent to zoom in.

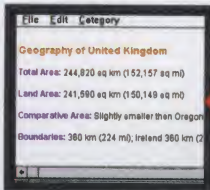
To get back to the political map of the UK you looked at earlier, you have to use the Map Trail button.



Same goes for the relief map: it's not detailed enough to show the heights and depths of the UK.



As an alternative to the political map, we can look at a topographical map, but only on a European scale.



Each country also has a wealth of statistical information, much of which is really fascinating.



To be sure where you are in the world, you can pop up a miniature 'Locator Globe' and I can see many uses for it in education. American cities are simply not likely to appeal to British buyers.

We've zoomed in on Europe, with all the nations clearly visible. Time to click on the UK.



First thing that happens when you choose a country is that its anthem plays (a pretty plinky-plonky version, though) and its flag appears.

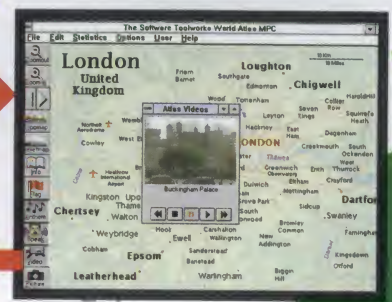


Next you can survey the map, with major cities highlighted. Bristol's there, but no Bath.

For Manchester and London there's a street map.



For London there's also a video tour of the city.





▲ Software Toolworks World Atlas has a simple atlas down to country level, a good range of statistics and lots of multimedia extras like photos, videos, music and narration.

Software Toolworks World Atlas

This is version 5 of the Software Toolworks atlas that we reviewed issue 2 – *World Atlas* is updated regularly to keep pace with changes in national borders – but it has not been radically changed. EA's *3D Atlas* does a similar job in a much more up-to-date style.

World Atlas takes the most popular approach as far as mapping detail goes. The basic atlas is composed of political maps, and zooms in from a world map, to a continental one, to national maps. Certain major cities enjoy the honour of a basic street map – London and Manchester, for example – but detail isn't sufficient for them to be of any use. The same applies to national maps.

Each country has a number of cities marked; a search facility lets you seek out any of these and you can calculate the distance between any two cities. So far so good – but EA's *3D Atlas* can do the same, and has a lot more to it besides.

Take, for example, the relief and topographical maps, a new addition to this version of *World Atlas*. Both types of map can be accessed at the click of a button, but what you get are maps of an entire continent which are not detailed enough to satisfy curiosity, never mind provide data for serious study. The more detailed *3D Atlas* goes all the way to national level with its relief and photographic mapping, and it's more interesting.

What *World Atlas* does do much better than *3D Atlas* is to integrate its statistics with the maps. Look at a map and click the Info button and you get screens of **facts and figures** about the country you're viewing: there's nothing fancy about the presentation, but

"Possibly the most original feature of the whole atlas is that you can hear place-names spoken, which can be a real boon."

there's enough information to be both intriguing and useful.

Probably the real strength of *World Atlas* is as a lightweight tour of the world. For each country you visit, you can hear the national anthem (a plinky MIDI-file tune) and see the national flag. There's a

video tour of some major cities, and possibly the most original feature of the whole atlas is that you can hear place-names spoken which can be a real boon with names like 'Kyrgyzstan'.

There's also a slideshow of each country's landscapes and cityscapes, though in some cases these are a little disappointing: for Zimbabwe there are only three pictures, all of the Victoria Falls. EA's *3D Atlas* did better.



The range of facts and figures available is good, and the statistics can also be displayed on a map or as graphs, which can be printed (as can all the maps). You can pick out which figures for which countries you want to see graphed, although the range of graphs is not as comprehensive or flexible as those available in *3D Atlas*.

All in all, this is a decent if uninspiring performer in the mapping department. It has a good range of statistics and some fairly pleasant multimedia extras, possibly the most original of the extras being the simple capability to read out place-names. It's worth noting that we have reviewed a non-anglicised American version of the CD-ROM: Software Toolworks is putting the finishing touches to the UK version, in which all pronunciation and narration is in an English accent.

World Atlas is outclassed by *3D Atlas*, which does more or less everything *World Atlas* does, but does it better. A revision of *World Atlas* would need better maps before it became a real contender, but it's excellent value at the price.

Pretty good



Continued overleaf ►

Facts and figures – There's a huge variety of statistics available on each country, charting everything from newsprint consumption to the number of drug offences per 100,000 population.

Information

We've reviewed the new version 5 of Software Toolworks *World Atlas* for Windows. It was supplied by Unisa (t 0161 429 0241) and costs around £22. An Angloised version is on its way.

Atlases – multimedia features

Atlas	Features
3D Atlas	Videos, photos, special maps, narration, music, charts
World Atlas	Videos, photos, names spoken, music, charts
Global View	Videos, time globe, charts
The Cities Below	Zoom in on satellite images

Start ↓

Taking a Global View

As well as a simple atlas, we're promised lots of interesting articles to read, reams of statistics to mull over and the added excitement of video extracts in this production sponsored by global news network CNN. Shall we see what's going on in the world?



We find ourselves in the CNN Newsroom, with a cosy chair to sit in and all sorts of goodies to click on. Let's try the world-clock first.



Clicking the Resources icon, for example, we're offered this immense reading list. But let's save that for later.

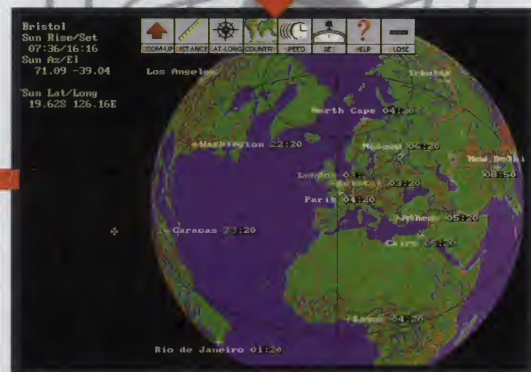


Let's move on to the main atlas. We start with a view of the whole world: the four icons bottom right can be used to access text articles.



You can zoom in on your own country, and measure the distance as the crow flies between any two places on the map. Useful.

When you first start the program up you can set where in the world you live, picking your home city from an immense list. The program reads the time from your PC's clock and, from that, it can tell you the time anywhere on the globe.



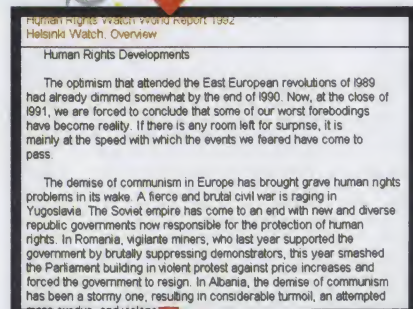
If we click on any of the continents on the map we zoom in for a view of the continent - this is Europe.



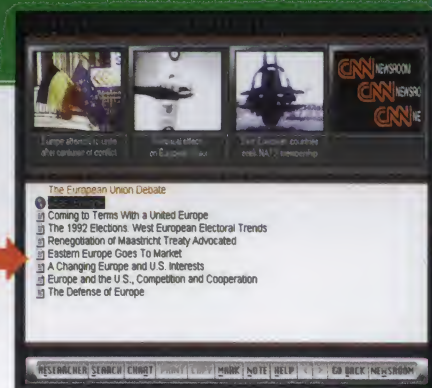
Back at the atlas, another level of zoom takes us from continental to national level. This map represents England. incidentally, we can zoom in on Scotland, Wales or Ireland individually.

The TV screens above the map each represents a set of videos: clicking on one of them, we're offered a choice of groups of videos.

And here's one of those groups; as well as the videos, there's a range of articles on related topics.



Again, we can now access text articles, sorted with relevance to the map we're now looking at (about Europe, in other words). This particular article is concerned with human rights and the events in Eastern Europe after the demise of the USSR.





▲ CNN Newsroom: Global View offers a pretty simple atlas but adds a wide range of text and statistics, as well as a sizeable batch of video extracts taken from CNN news reports.

Cable News Network – the CNN branding is fairly heavy-handed throughout the disc, with the main selection screen being presented as if it were the CNN newsroom and lots of CNN logos spread liberally throughout. This is fair enough, but the major component that CNN has contributed is the choice of video segments, which are already spattered with CNN logos and subtitles. It leaves you with the impression that the CNN brand is being exploited, but the potential excitement of CNN – that live, on-the-spot feeling – has been wasted. Not enough imagination has gone into designing a virtual newsroom environment, which could have made this a very accessible and exciting package for younger users.

CNN Newsroom: Global View

From the **Cable News Network**, the US-based global 24-hour news channel that shot to prominence with its Scud-by-Scud, Cruise's eye view of the Gulf War, comes this "World atlas on CD-ROM with video, maps, charts, facts and world-clock" – it says on the box.

Which means what, exactly? Well, it's a package of five main components: a basic atlas; a set of video clips edited from CNN reports; text extracts giving background information on the countries of the world; statistics, which can be made into charts; and the mysterious 'world-clock', which is a sort of time-atlas.

It seems a little exaggerated to describe the whole thing as an

atlas. The atlas component gives only a crudely drawn map of the world from which you can zoom in to any continent and then to any individual country. A handful of major cities are marked on the rather basic relief maps and, while they'd help you find any country in the world, that – and each country's flag – is about as much useful information as you get.

The other function of the atlas is as an access mechanism to the pieces of text. In the bottom right of the map screen there are four icons labelled People, Resources, Politics and Military; clicking on any of these will bring up a list of text extracts that are relevant to whatever map you're looking at: so if the UK map is on the screen, you'll get texts about the UK, but if it's Europe, you can choose from texts on any European nation.

The texts are an odd mixture. On the UK, for example, you can read US State Department advice on travelling to the UK, profiles of

"There's quite a few video clips on a broad range of topics, but they tend to come over as old news rather than recent history."

the two major cities of London and Manchester (odd choice, but you might like to know that Manchester's murder rate is very low and that 100 per cent of its phone calls are successfully connected) and a brief history of Britain. The brief history is quite

interesting, but shows up a failing of the package – out-of-dateness: it describes Kinnock as Labour Party leader, Thatcher as PM and the next elections due to take place no later than June 1992.

The time element also wreaks havoc with the videos. There's quite a few video clips, on a broad range of topics from Africa to former Yugoslavia, but since they are culled from CNN news reports – and because of the style-over-substance nature of those reports – they tend to come across as old news, rather than recent history.

Moving on, the statistics are pretty impressive, with an enormous range of information that can be charted and graphed in a number of different ways. The system isn't as polished as that in EA's *3D World Atlas*, however.

My favourite part of the package was the world-clock, which is basically another, better atlas. You can display times for



anywhere in the world, pick out cities from a huge list, measure the distance from one place to another, or look at a globe that shows regions of day and night.

It all adds up to a package that's very similar to *3D World Atlas*, but *Global View* is simply not as polished. The videos are probably its unique selling point, but they're really not interesting or valuable enough to sway your decision. The CNN effort is less sure of its audience, and less care has been taken over its execution, and as a result is distinctly less effective than its rival.

Average



Continued overleaf ▶

Atlases – comparison of map types

Atlas	Relief	Political	Photo	Local
3D World	✓	✓	✓	✓
World Atlas	✓	✓	✓	✓
CNN Global View	✓	✗	✗	✗
The Cities Below	✗	✗	✓	✓

Information

Cable Newsroom: Global View runs from Windows and has no unusual system requirements. It is published by Compact Publishing in the US and available in the UK from Unice (t: 0181 428 8961) and costs around \$34.

Start ↓

Looking down on The Cities Below

Apparently, the skies are full of spy satellites so powerful that they can read the headlines on your newspaper from way up there in space. So let's strap on a jet-pack and take a look at their view of American cities.

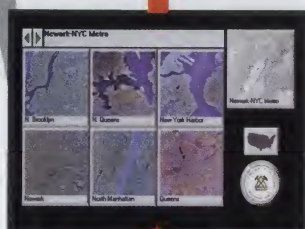


Our first view is an outline of the USA, with small rectangles marking the satellite views on offer. Using the magnifying glass icon, we can swoop lower...

Here we are over San Francisco, with the Golden Gate bridge on the left and Alcatraz picked out by the magnifying glass.



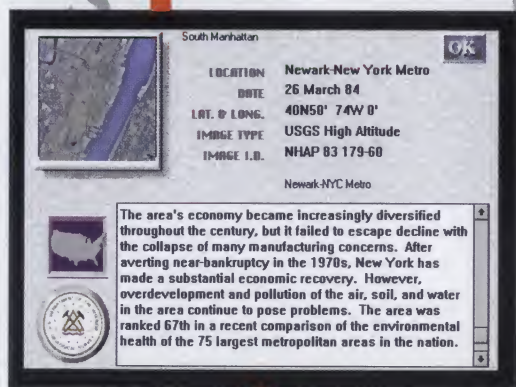
Another button on the control panel offers a pictorial menu of all the satellite images available on the disc. Let's head for the West Coast.



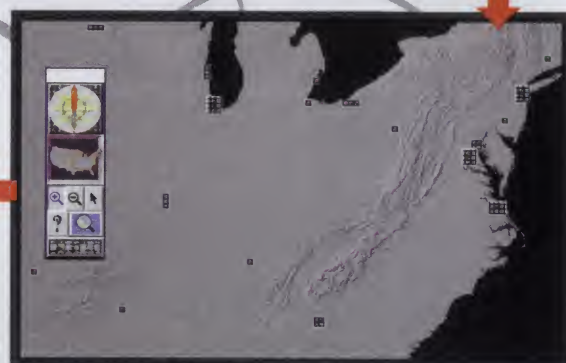
The large arrows on the left-hand side of this image show that a neighbouring image is available.



Using the Interrogang button, we can bring up a screen with information about the photo we're seeing. It also has an essay on the history and human geography of the city.



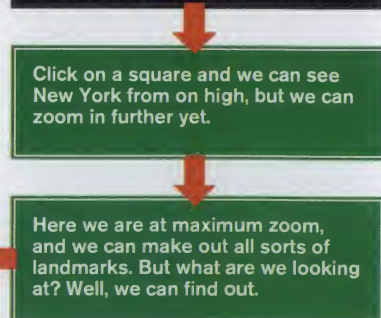
... and zoom in on a relief view of the north-eastern United States...



...until we're close enough to see an amazing amount of geographical detail. If we click on the rectangle representing New York, we're offered this set of miniatures of the satellite views on offer, each one a square; as we move the mouse pointer over a square, its name appears.



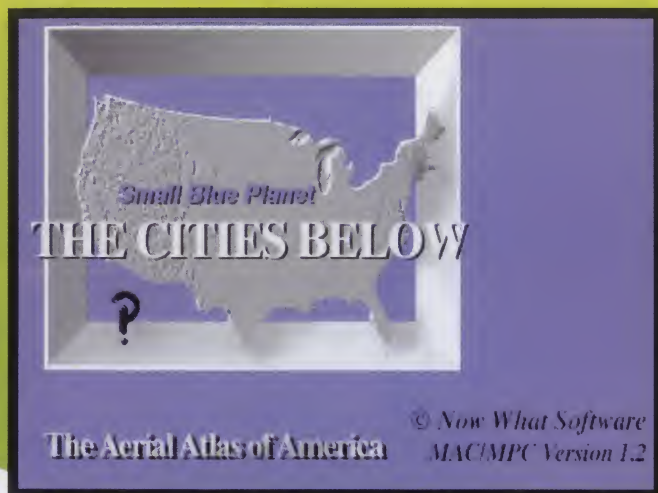
Click on a square and we can see New York from on high, but we can zoom in further yet.



Here we are at maximum zoom, and we can make out all sorts of landmarks. But what are we looking at? Well, we can find out.



Using the special magnifying glass, we can reveal a road map that tells us what we're looking at. Wherever we drag the magnifying glass with the mouse, the map is revealed, aligned exactly (more or less) with the satellite image.



▲ **Small Blue Planet: The Cities Below** is simply a collection of satellite images of major American cities, of sufficient quality that you can zoom in and see individual buildings.

The Cities Below

This is a follow-up to the **well-received** *Small Blue Planet: The Real Picture Atlas*, which made fascinating use of satellite photographs and a slightly hippy environmentalist ethic to produce an intriguing tour of the world as we don't normally see it.

Part of its attraction was how wide-ranging it was, composing a photographic relief map of the entire world from its satellite images, and adding comments on particular areas of interest such as deforestation in the Amazon basin.

Small Blue Planet: The Cities Below is far less broad-minded, it's just satellite pictures of American cities, which are obviously going to be less appealing to Europeans.

The way it works is simple. There's a full-screen outline map

of the United States, on which the available satellite close-ups are marked as rectangles. You click on a rectangle and a miniature is displayed. Put the mouse pointer over one of the square miniature images and the area's name appears beneath in a kind of caption, telling you what city, or area of a city you're looking at.

Click on a miniature that interests you and it is blown up to full-screen size, at which point you can click a magnifying glass pointer over any area of the image to zoom in (some images have two levels of zoom available, others only one). You can then scroll around the image, revealing areas that are off-screen and, if there is a neighbouring image available, you can scroll across to that.

And essentially, that's what it's all about. Zoom in and look at a satellite image of a city. It's reasonably interesting – the level of detail is such that you can make out individual buildings – but it

"The level of detail is such that you can make out individual buildings, but it lacks explanation of what you're looking at."

lacks any decent explanation of what you're looking at.

The publisher, Cambrix, has come up with two methods of telling you what you're seeing, but neither actually works very well. First there's the amusingly named 'Interrobang' button on the control

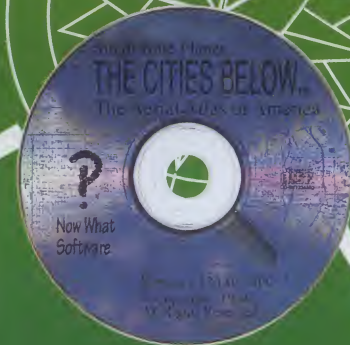
panel, which brings up a screen with a long, scrolling piece of text. While this provides an interesting historical and geographical background on the city in question, it doesn't explain individual features to look out for on the satellite image.

The other explanatory device is a magnifying glass that appears over the satellite image: a road map of the area you're looking at is displayed in its lens. As you move the lens around the screen, the road map is updated to relate directly to the satellite picture.

This is a good idea, but sadly proves of little help since the road map doesn't explain many of the interesting sights on the satellite image. For example, I found an interesting-looking stadium in the middle of New York: is it famous for baseball or football? I moved the magnifying glass over it, but all it gave me was the label 'Stadium'.

A similar Satellite Atlas covering Britain would be vastly more interesting for a British audience – if only because you could look for your own house – and I can see many uses for it in education. American cities are unlikely to appeal to UK buyers.

But even if this were about British cities, it wouldn't be satisfactory until a decent method had been arranged by which the user could find out what he or she was looking at. A better map would be a start: individual labelling of the important landmarks would make this disparate collection of photographs into an integrated, useful package.



well-received – possibly a little too well received with its 'Good' rating in our review of six months ago, since it had a similar flaw to this disc, in that it lacked depth. Many of the best ideas in the Real Picture Atlas have been picked up in 3D World Atlas, which makes the original Small Blue Planet disc somewhat superfluous.

Information

Small Blue Planet: The Cities Below is published by Now What Software and distributed by Cambrix Publishing. It comes on one dual-format disc for Mac and PC and costs \$49.99 in the States. Contact your usual retailer for details of price and availability in this country.

Atlases – Final ratings

Atlas	How it scored overall	
3D Atlas	The three globes (political, relief, and photographic) are excellent and the extras are mostly very useful.	★★★★☆ Very good
World Atlas	A good, user-friendly all-round introduction to countries with decent stats, but maps could be better.	★★★★☆ Pretty good
Global View	As an atlas it doesn't perform, but articles and videos add an extra dimension; overall, lacks authority.	★★★★☆ Average
The Cities Below	The satellite images are fascinating, but really need to be better explained; not too relevant to UK buyers.	★★★★☆ Average

Average





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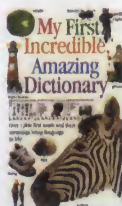
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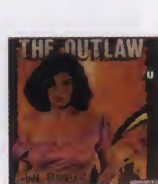
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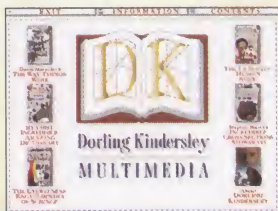
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In the spotlight

Gahan Wilson's The Ultimate

Haunted House



If your kids like *The Addams Family*, they'll enjoy the spooky delights of *The Ultimate Haunted House*. Garrick Webster puts on his Hallowe'en costume and goes BOOH!

Mix the bloody pulp, the bad smell, and the slime with some cold water, and you have the perfect bait for a

monster trap. It sounds disgusting, but Gahan Wilson's *The Ultimate Haunted House* is all safe, clean fun for the kids.

Despite appearing to be an interactive storybook, *The Ultimate Haunted House* is an adventure game. The objective is to collect a set of keys in 13 gametime hours in order to release yourself.

Kids will find the house loads of fun. There is an exciting variety of rooms, each with an imaginative theme. In the conservatory you can put records on the gramophone, play an organ made of bones, throw objects (like the records) out of the window, and generally make loads of noise. There's a laboratory where you can make a

Frankenstein's monster by pulling various body parts out of the drawers. Zap some power into it and it might come to life.



► Find all 13 keys by 13 o'clock, warns the ghost, before scattering them throughout the house.



▲ You can make your own monster, and if he's assembled correctly, he may even come to life.

Information

Gahan Wilson's *The Ultimate Haunted House* runs under Windows and will be available for around £45 from High Street computer retailers. It is produced by Microsoft (☎ 01734 270001).



▲ Make some noise in the conservatory and get the inhabitants out to play.



▲ And here is where the pets live, and what delightful little critters they are.



A smart little feature of the game is that the more noise you make around the place, the more active the house becomes. So, if you get the place rocking to your organ music, ghosts, vampires and monsters will start appearing. And the more you stir it up, the more likely it is you'll find some keys.

All you have with you is a bag to hold the objects you must collect and the keys you find. Rarely, however, will you open a chest and just find a key. More likely, you'll find strange objects like rat pies, bouncing balls, slices of cheese, barrels of toxic waste or loose eyeballs. You have to stick them in your bag for later.

Then, when the monsters pop up, you can bribe them. Give the vampiress a bottle of blood and she may reward you with a key. Or go downstairs to the torture chamber and try to catch a ghoul in a trap.

The only real flaw of *The Ultimate Haunted House* is that it might be just a little difficult for many children to understand exactly what it is that they're supposed to do.

But it's a well crafted and funny game, with plenty of extras to keep them howling for hours.



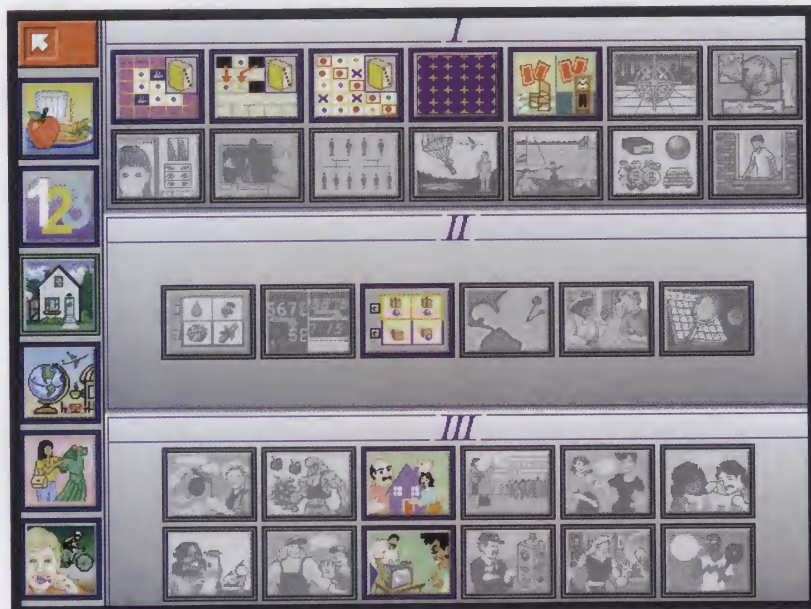
Good

★★★★☆

In the spotlight

I Speak French

A good citizen of the EU, Garrick Webster gets his beret and Breton shirt out of mothballs and immerses himself in the French Multimedia Language System.



▲ Here's where you choose your learning game. Allons-y! Nous aimons le français.

French was the subject I dreaded most at school. At least I was thankful I wasn't being taught by the immersion (no English) process. I was certain that, thrown in at the deep end, it would have been sink or swim for me if I'd had to relinquish my beloved mother tongue. But then I never did learn French properly. Of the many CD-ROM language packages, only a handful

use immersion. One such is *I Speak French* from the Multimedia Language System series.

Simplicity is the key to *I Speak French*. All you have to do is click on one of six vocabulary areas, and a variety of simple games and dialogue options become available. Topics include food and drink, numbers, in the house, places and travel, people and doing things – all you need to get on your way.

There are three levels of difficulty, with the easiest offering

short memory games like concentration and bingo. Before playing any game you can query all the cards or objects you see on the screen, and hear French phrases describing them.

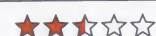
The beginner and medium levels are easy and fun, and probably a good way to learn some lingo. Each little quiz can be played over and over, with different combinations of vocabulary coming together. The click-listen, click-play formula gets tiring, even in the more complex games, but it's not bad if you want quick lessons for the kids.

The top level replaces games with short dialogues presented through comic book style screens. Click the voice bubbles and you hear what's said. You can slow down the speech if necessary.

A very big failure of *I Speak French*, however, is its real lack of variety in its multimedia aspects. It's all voices and pictures, but would be far stronger if it had a bit of animation. A section with some interesting narrative wouldn't have gone amiss, and although the title's *I Speak French*, some written material might have helped too.

I Speak French is a good basic introduction to the language that you can pick up and put down anytime. But although it has quite a variety of things to do, it can quickly become boring. If price is the issue, though, there can't be too many complaints.

Average



▲ In the dialogue section you click the speech bubbles to hear voices.



▲ On what day will Jean play le tennis or go to le bibliotheque?



▲ Identifying the regions of France is a true challenge.



▲ You'll have to find les chaises and le table in le lounge.

Information

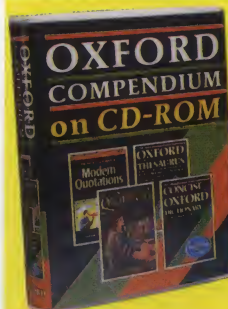
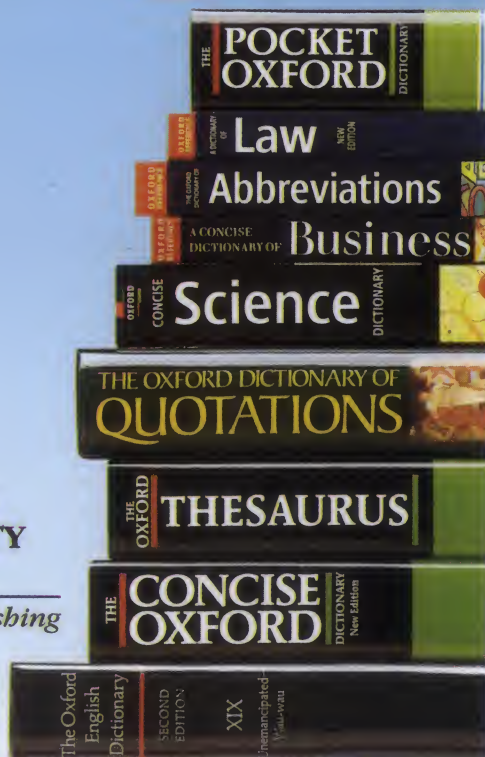
The Multimedia Language System *I Speak French* costs £34.99 and is available from Infogrames (☎ 0171 738 8199). Spanish also available. Japanese, French, Spanish, German, and English are available for four to nine-year-olds, priced at £29.99.

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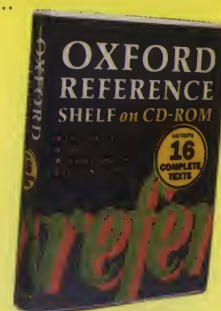
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In the spotlight

Headcandy



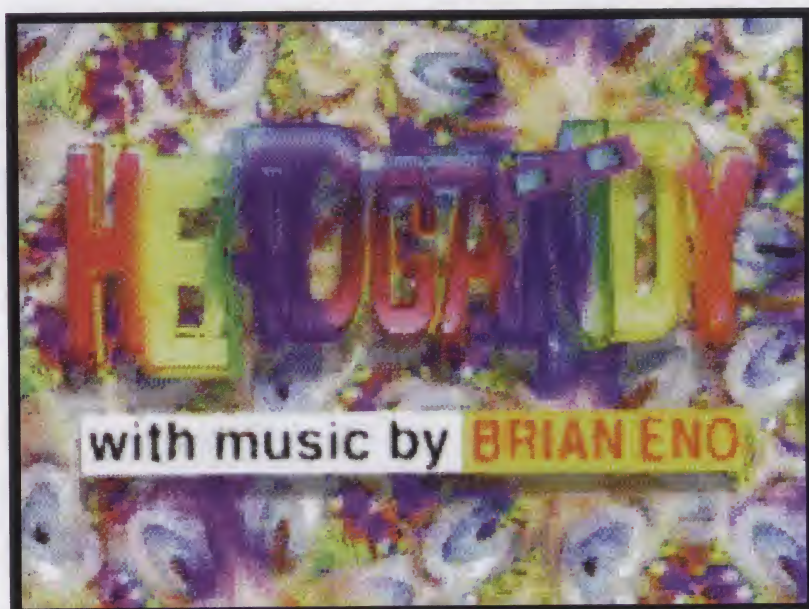
▲ This is the main interface, the eye motif, in Headcandy.



▲ Click on one of the rolling balls and you enter the music.



▲ Shapes and colours move and change, creating 3D effects.



▲ Warning: abuse of the contents will make your cerebrum ache and could result in permanent damage to your sense of logic. Not for the kaleidophobic.

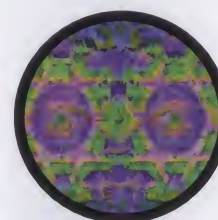
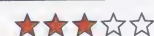
Finally, Brian Eno and his music burst on to the CD-ROM stage. Garrick Webster stretches his skullcap and tries to chill out with Headcandy...

But how, you might wonder, can you click your mouse if you're 20 feet from the computer? Well, with *Headcandy* you rarely need to. It's not an interactive disc, and that's why its distributor, BMG, has cut the price from £40 to £19.99. Nonetheless, the music and changing patterns work very well, and certainly managed to fill my mind – nearly to bursting.

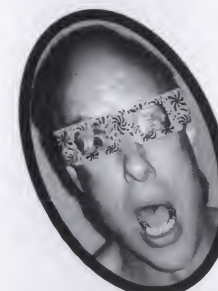
The soft, quiet and relaxing *Castro Haze* is the best piece of music, and is similar to Eno's early ambient work like *Another Green World*. Unfortunately, this track is accompanied by gaudy, flashing visuals, entirely unsuited to the music. Rather than soothing you, it makes your eyes ache and water. Another worrying thing is that the instructions actually recommend that you turn the audio off and listen to your own music on a stereo instead.

But to make it plain, both the music and visuals on this disc are weird. So if Brian Eno's past solo music is not your piece of cake, then chances are you won't be impressed by *Headcandy*. If you're an Eno fan, however, you'll eat it up and hunger for more.

Pretty good



▲ Kaleidoscopic visions are enhanced with prismatic specs...



▲ ... and here's Brian Eno sporting a pair of his own. Photo by David Bowie.

Information

Headcandy costs £19.99 and will be available late January from BMG Interactive on ☎ 0171 973 0011. It runs under DOS.

E

nduring, experimental and eccentric, Brian Eno has been expected on the CD-ROM music scene for a long time.

Nevertheless, his career of unpredictability has ensured no-one could guess quite what he'd come up with.

Headcandy is for people with minds wide open and hungry for sweet brainfood.

Basically, it's like a CD-ROM version of a chill-out video that you might see in a dance club. You're meant to put it on, sit back, and float into your own thoughts through mists of changing 3D patterns and colours, on waves of

gentle music. Um... if you're into that sort of thing.

The instructions tell you to turn off the lights and put on the prismatic glasses that come in the box (extra pairs can be ordered for parties). Sitting 7 – 20 feet from the screen, you then let *Headcandy* take full effect.

Slow, mutating rhythms emerge – in CD stereo – and the ambient music melds in your head with the swirling, multi-coloured images. The only identifiable objects to appear are a brain and an eyeball; the rest are intricate, ever-warping images, multiplied and spread across your field of view by your prismatic specs.



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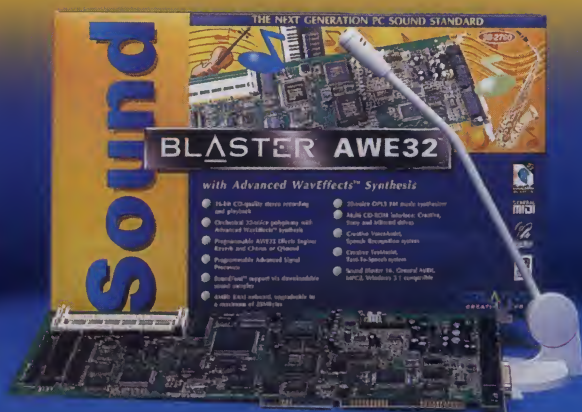
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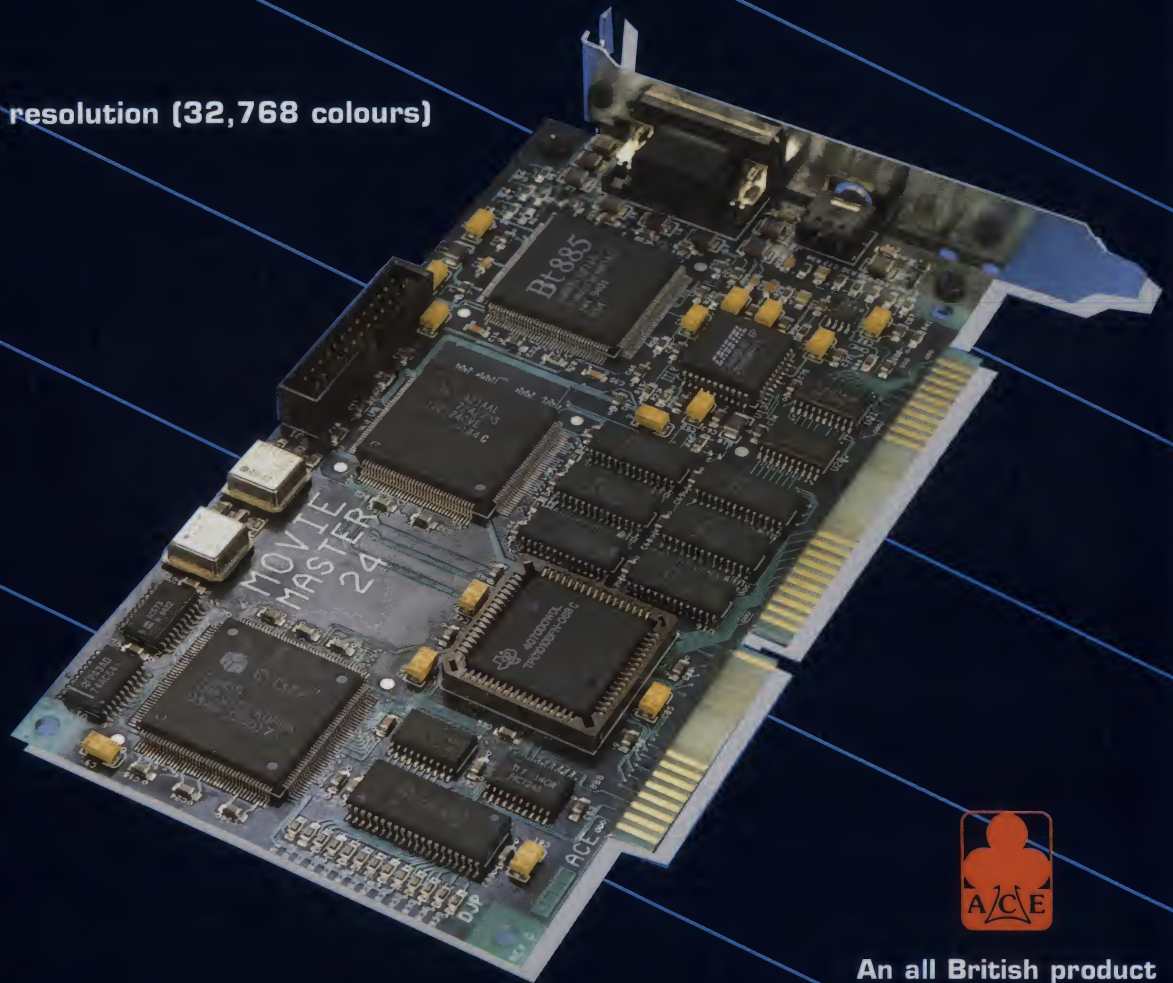
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Image taken from Jurassic Park - the Screen Saver

CD-ROM can do the impossible - bring to life the creatures that no human has ever seen. Andy Storer considers the fascination of dinosaurs and looks at multimedia discs that enable you to travel back a hundred million years or so.

AAARRRGH!!

W

hat exactly is it about these ugly looking brutes that has captured not only the public interest but that, it seems, of a number of multimedia publishing companies? Could it simply be something to do with a certain blockbuster movie that's still breaking box-office records? Or is it just the lasting impression of sheer size and viciousness that these oversized lizards conjure up? Whatever the explanation, dinosaurs remain an ideal subject for multimedia treatment for one main reason: no-one's ever seen one, but everyone would like to. Since we discovered the dinosaurs' existence only a short while ago - compared with the 150 million years they roamed the earth - paleontologists have gone to great lengths to satisfy this curiosity.

As such, what we're presented

with is a body of scientific research which attempts to illuminate us, in ever more ingenious ways, with competing theories based on its findings. And as you can see from the discs we showcase here, these findings have been treated to a multi-faceted mix of illustrations, ambient sounds, animated models and documentation direct from the

"Dinosaurs are an ideal subject for multimedia treatment ...no-one's ever seen one, but everyone would like to."

leading practitioners in the field. These discs are the current state of the art as far as popular reference material is concerned, and while they may not have the sheer

immediacy of *Jurassic Park* the movie, some, like *3D Dinosaur Adventure* with its stereoscopic models leaping out of the screen at you, come pretty close. If it's more of a cross between entertainment and education you're after, then look no further than Microsoft's *Dinosaurs* and MDI's *Dinosaurs: The Multimedia Encyclopedia*. With their fast access to fully indexed material and intricate hypertext links, both leave any reference book standing.

As far as education goes, dinosaurs are pretty good fun - especially if you can see and hear just how huge and vicious they might have been. All the titles on view here have used imagination in good measure to convey these unique qualities, and employed it with diversity. So if you're on the lookout for the definitive dinosaur disc, look no further than these pages...



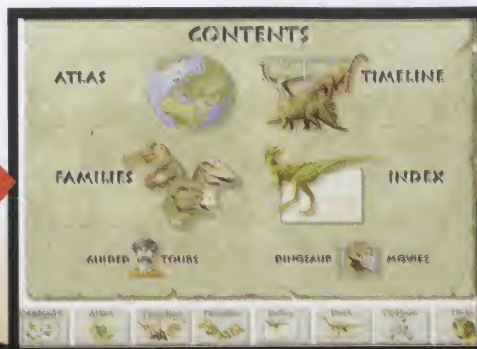
Continued overleaf ►

Microsoft Dinosaurs

The information in Dinosaurs is accessed via four interlinked subject areas: Atlas, Timeline, Families and Index; each combines point and click ease of use with a wealth of pictures, sounds and movies.



Clicking on the Contents icon at the bottom of the screen calls up the main navigation screen – clicking on any of these pictures will take you to the information they hold.



From the Atlas screen you're able to choose a geographical area to explore. Throughout the CD, annotated voice-overs can be accessed via the small speaker icon next to the page title, while the button at the top right of the screen will take you to an associated topic.

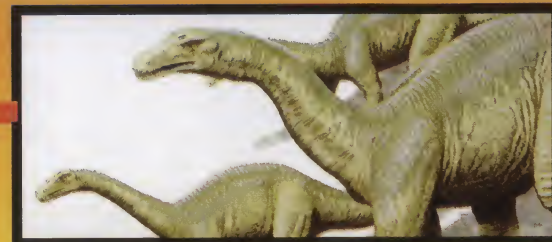


Dinosaurs has a neat Picture Gallery within which you can assign images as Windows Wallpaper. There's a video gallery too where you can view animations of monsters and an option to use groups of pictures as screensavers.



If we'd chosen 'Families' from the contents screen we would have arrived here – another front-end to the masses of data to hand here.

Alternatively we could flip to a tutorial on how to recognise Sauropods... and here are the largest animals ever to walk the Earth.



Microsoft Dinosaurs

With the care and attention to detail you'd expect from Microsoft, Dinosaurs has everything – masses of images, text and sounds, plus video clips, animations and built-in screen savers.

Best
buy

From Microsoft's Home Division – the people who brought you the excellent *Art Gallery* and *Musical Instruments* titles – comes *Dinosaurs*, a multimedia journey through 150 million years of prehistory. As you might imagine then, there's a great deal of information involved here and the resulting disc is crammed with high quality illustrations, movies and sounds.

So besides the 1,000 excellent images and photographs on offer, you're also treated to voice-over annotations, ambient sounds and growls as well as a whole load of video clip animations.

What's more, there's a handful of neat utilities which enable you to create your own slideshows, use the images as Windows wallpaper and run a selection of screensavers at any time.

But picture

galleries and soundtracks aside, there's also a serious educational content here, with nearly 200 illustrated articles and 80 pop-up windows full of the sort of detail which any budding paleontologist will just love.

Given the breadth of the subject, it's essential to provide a number of different ways to navigate the material that is available. So Microsoft has opted to organise the data around four main starting points.

Using the Atlas route, you can zoom in on any continent and learn about the particular geographic conditions which defined the range of dinosaurs that

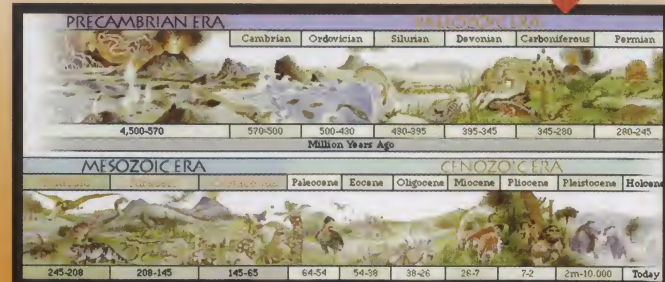
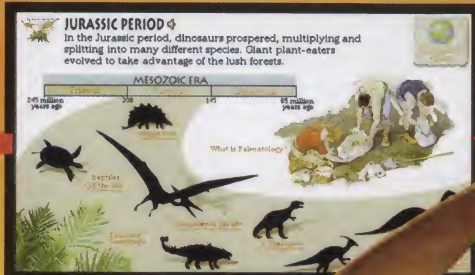
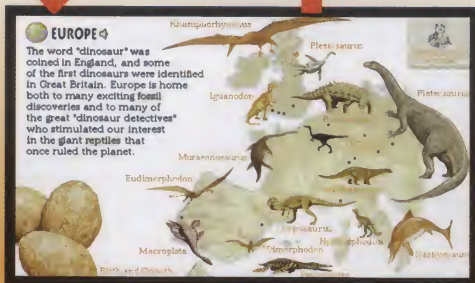


Clicking on Europe brings us this locality and display of the main types of dinosaur to be found here. Note the highlighted text offering a route to a hypertext link and the button providing additional information about early dinosaur detectives.



Choosing Rhamphorhynchus takes us to the main thread of the CD – a detailed drawing of the creature in question. Clicking on the facts button calls up more detail and there are hypertext links.

Choosing Prosauropods from the previous screen calls up a 'Family' screen from which we can once again focus in on the particular details of any one creature.



Visiting the Jurassic Period we're able to select any of the creatures available or switch to a tutorial on the Paleontology of this time.

If we'd chosen Timeline from the contents screen this is where we'd have arrived. Once again, clicking on any of the eras takes us to the appropriate information.

urs

lived in that area. Alternatively, you might choose to base your study on time, choosing a particular era from the Timeline option and clicking your way to the dinosaurs which lived at the time. A more zoological approach would be to choose 'Families' from the Contents screen and work your way through the examples of different species types. Finally, if you want to look up the information on one particular creature immediately, you can choose the Index option which calls up an alphabetical listing of all the dinosaurs on offer. Whichever route you choose the destination is always,

ultimately, the same: full screen windows containing detailed, colourful illustrations of the creature in question along with an introductory text description. Here you're able to click on hypertext links in the text to call up associated information, trigger voice-over annotations and

"Full of the sort of detail which any budding paleontologist will just love."

ambient sounds, or click on a button which will take you to an overview, showing the example you're viewing in a wider context. So, however you've arrived at a particular animal there are always several ways to go about gaining additional information. But before you change course and go searching for

additional information you're meant to stay and study the entries for your chosen creature. Here you're confronted by as many as ten pop-up windows per dinosaur, featuring texts and images on just about every pertinent fact you can imagine. Since each of these windows also has links to additional and associated information, the true scope and breadth of the title quickly becomes apparent. As such, there's nothing really to fault here, except that with such diversity it takes a while to sit down and concentrate on the material. It's just so easy to flick between one page of information and the next with no specific intention in mind other than casual browsing. That can only be a good thing for younger CD-ROM users because there is no way they are ever going to go down the same route twice.

Very good ★★★★★

Information
Microsoft Dinosaurs is published by Microsoft (☎ 01734 270001), requires Windows and retails for around £40.



3D Dinosaur Adventure

3D Dinosaur Adventure uses a theme park metaphor through which you can explore its exhibits. You can either roam around discovering the sights for yourself or use the Shortcuts icons accessible for the main contents screen.



3D Dinosaur Adve

While Jurassic Park may represent the state of the art in Dinomovies, 3D Dinosaur Adventure offers startling three-dimensional models, bringing creatures to life with a fresh realism and top-notch graphics.

movie of a particular dinosaur in action, or construct your own monster in a virtual laboratory. Either way, the accent is on fun

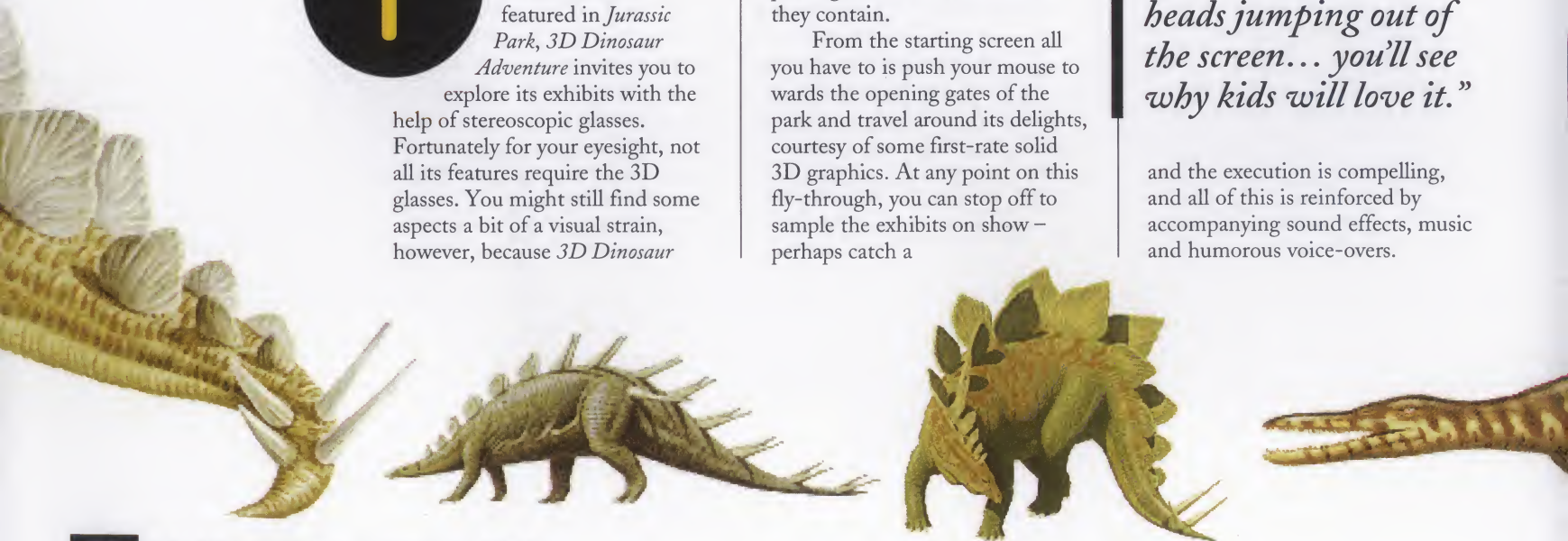
Taking as its point of departure a theme park not unlike that featured in *Jurassic Park*, 3D Dinosaur Adventure invites you to explore its exhibits with the help of stereoscopic glasses. Fortunately for your eyesight, not all its features require the 3D glasses. You might still find some aspects a bit of a visual strain, however, because 3D Dinosaur

Adventure relies on fly-by graphics to sweep you around the theme park's grounds and the exhibits they contain.

From the starting screen all you have to do is push your mouse towards the opening gates of the park and travel around its delights, courtesy of some first-rate solid 3D graphics. At any point on this fly-through, you can stop off to sample the exhibits on show – perhaps catch a

“Animations involve a fair bit of monsters’ heads jumping out of the screen... you’ll see why kids will love it.”

and the execution is compelling, and all of this is reinforced by accompanying sound effects, music and humorous voice-overs.



Once in the entrance area you need do nothing more than use your mouse to point you in the direction you want to go. If we push it forwards towards the Jurassic jungle, we fly on to...



... like the 3D museum which, as we're sure you can appreciate, this screenshot doesn't do full justice to - you need the special specs.

... a fully-rendered landscape full of dinosaurs which you pass through as if on board a helicopter. Along the route are various places you can stop off to explore...



There's all sorts of movies to choose from, including ones in which fossils come alive before your eyes or dinosaurs engage in a spot of fisticuffs



Stopping off during a fly-by at a Movie theatre, you can settle down to view one of the 20 animated films on offer.

But perhaps this shot of the 3D museum gives you a better idea of its impressive graphics - especially when you consider you can move around, among and between these creatures in varying states of zoom focus.

nture

What's more, you don't need to run it as a Look and Learn exercise at all, since various modules enable you to play games in which you have to identify dinosaurs correctly, or save them all before a comet hits by correctly defining which era they belong to. Yep, they're all variations on an avowedly educational angle but it works very well in practice.

Also included are 20 movies featuring animated models of dinosaurs which, surprisingly, are of such high quality that they wouldn't have looked out of place in *Jurassic Park* (maybe).

But pride of place goes to the exceptional 3D animations which

**Best
buy**

Information

3D Dinosaur Adventure, from Knowledge Adventure, is published in this country by Guildsoft (☎ 01752 606200) and costs £45.

require the stereoscopic glasses. These work really well, even in a bright room, and consist of fully-rendered models complete with sound effects - in a word, growls. And since the animations involve a fair bit of these monsters' heads jumping out of the screen, you can begin to see why kids will love it. Of particular note in the stereoscopic section is the 3D museum in which you can navigate between and around all the beasts on offer in full-screen mode.

With a utility for designing your own dinosaurs or, rather, for modifying wire-frame models by covering them with your own choice of the nine materials offered, *3D Dinosaur Adventure* does bring a whole new look to a subject that has seemed destined for overkill. When you add to

this a storybook area, which is suitable for the youngest of users, you have a package that will prove fun for every member of the family.

There's only one downside to this impressive extravaganza, and that's the fact that it has to run from DOS. Okay, so this can be achieved from within Windows but nevertheless the installation procedure does require some tweaking.

However, since the reason for ditching Windows is to improve graphics performance for all those fully-rendered animations, this is no bad thing in the long run. It is fortunate that the manual covers enough DOS errors to make it easy to minimise any mouse and sound problems.

Very good

★★★★☆



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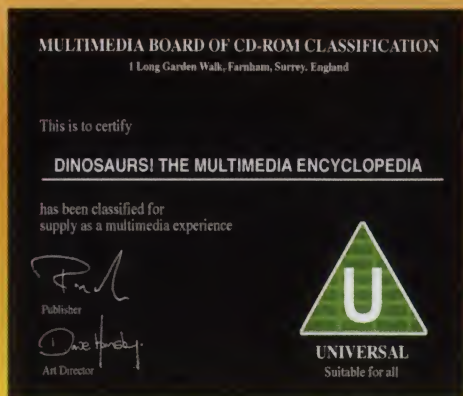
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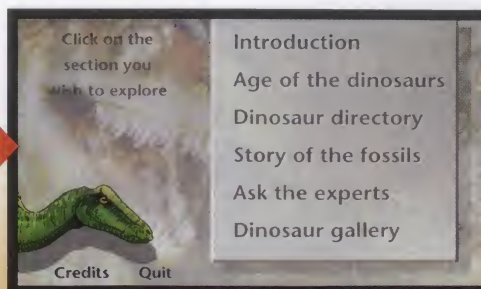
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Dinosaurs: The Multimedia Encyclopedia

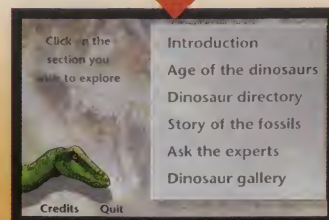
Dinosaurs: The Multimedia Encyclopedia features an easy to use, no-frills front end offering simple navigation of its wealth of text, images and video clips.



If you choose Introduction from the opening screen you're treated to a voice-over commentary of the contents of the disc along with samples of the images and illustrations you'll find.

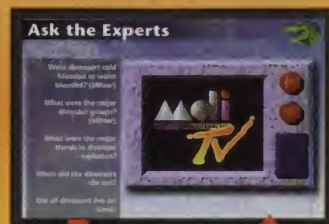


Clicking on the Age of the dinosaurs button takes us to a similar menu. Here we've chosen to look at a global picture of the their diffusion during the Late Triassic.



... to this lovely Allosaurus - each picture can be zoomed for closer inspection. Don't worry kids, they aren't real - just top-notch working models.

The dinosaur gallery features a collection of all the dinosaurs on show, ranging from cuddly little critters like this...



Asking the Experts gives you a series of questions at the left of the screen which can be answered 'live' by leading paleontologists appearing on video in the TV screenwindow.

Dinosaurs: The Multimedi

Another comprehensive reference work combining a range of multimedia materials, *Dinosaurs: The Multimedia Encyclopedia* enables you to put the experts in the hot seat and fire questions at them.

Media Design Interactive is well known in multimedia circles as the company behind titles like *ITN World News '93* and *The Dictionary of the Living World*, each featuring the same easy to use interface. So, as you might expect, the materials on offer here are brought together in a pretty seamless mix which includes extensive video footage.

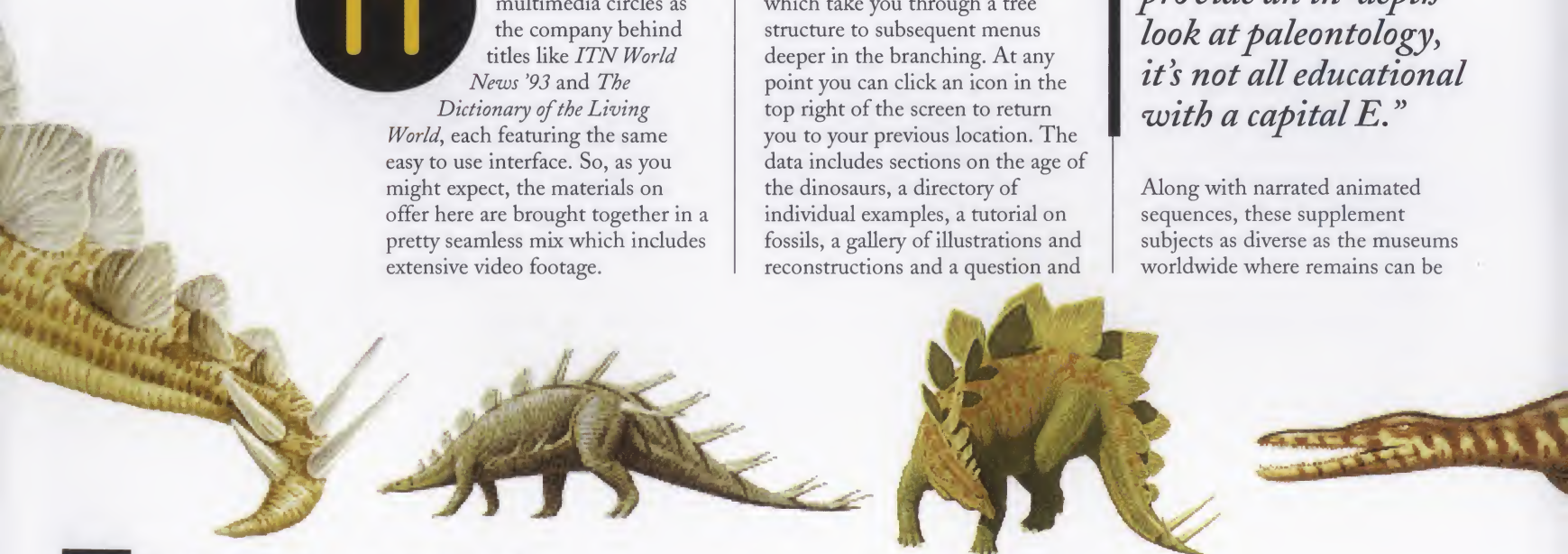
The disc is organised around a series of clickable menu items which take you through a tree structure to subsequent menus deeper in the branching. At any point you can click an icon in the top right of the screen to return you to your previous location. The data includes sections on the age of the dinosaurs, a directory of individual examples, a tutorial on fossils, a gallery of illustrations and reconstructions and a question and

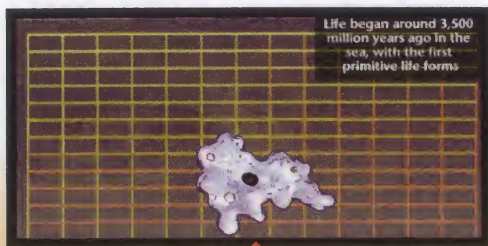
answer session with the some of the world's top paleontologists.

In among this wealth of material are over 200 full colour illustrations and photographs.

"While some areas provide an in-depth look at paleontology, it's not all educational with a capital E."

Along with narrated animated sequences, these supplement subjects as diverse as the museums worldwide where remains can be

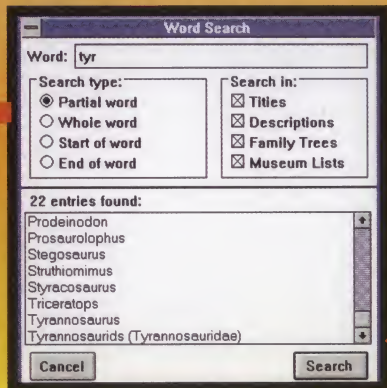
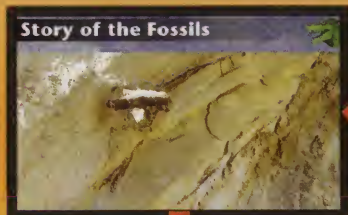
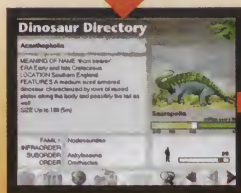




Moving to the dinosaur dictionary calls up a much more detailed range of options. Besides text descriptions and illustrations, icons along the bottom of the screen call up video clips, if available, plus information on museums where remains are to be found.

Choosing the camera icon calls up the lovely chappie below – just one of a 100 good quality photographs.

But we could just have easily chosen to view a series of animations forming a tutorial based on an overview of the timescale of evolution.



The Story of the Fossils option brings us to a series of interlinked cards featuring high quality pictures and illustrations with voice-over.

But there's also a handy text search engine to aid fast access to particular creatures or other associated topics which can be called up from the magnifying glass icon.

a Encyclopedia

viewed, the history of paleontological research and a wide range of facts about the 50 or so families of dinosaurs which have been found.

Perhaps the most detailed area is the Dinosaur directory where pictures, maps, movies and descriptions are combined in a series of cards. Here you can click on the illustrations for full screen viewing, or click on a range of icons which call up more photographs, a list of museums where you can find any particular dinosaur's remains, maps showing where the creature has been found and video footage of reconstructed models in action. Throw in a search engine for fast



Information

Dinosaurs: The Multimedia Encyclopedia is published by Media Design Interactive and distributed by Sony Psygnosis (☎ 0151 709 5755). It costs £40.

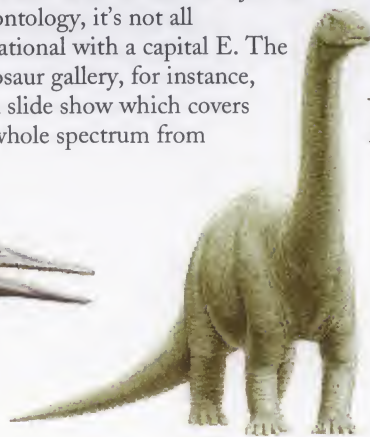
access to any word appearing anywhere on the disc and you have an efficient way of quickly finding any subject you wish to explore – particularly as the addition of relevant information, such as related families, lets you do the equivalent of hypertext surfing.

While areas, such as the story of fossils and how dinosaurs became fossilised, excavated and re-assembled, provide a more in-depth look at the serious subject of paleontology, it's not all educational with a capital E. The Dinosaur gallery, for instance, has a slide show which covers the whole spectrum from

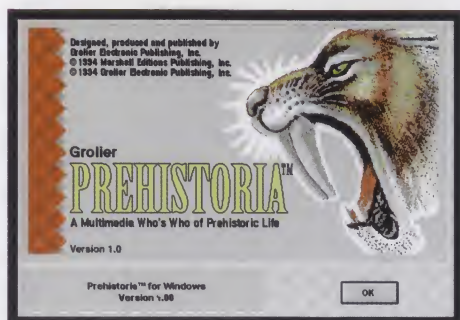
skeletons to toys and can be browsed at will. Simply by clicking on the title bar and choosing Export Picture from the menu, it's possible to save out any images you like as stand-alone files that you can convert into screen savers, wallpaper or whatever. My only criticism in this mix of media is that the video footage looks too pixellated and jerky, even though its subject matter is compelling.

Next to Microsoft's *Dinosaurs* you feel there's less hard information on offer, although the interviews with experts make up for this to some extent. But it's probably in comparison to *3D Dinosaur Adventure* that *Dinosaurs: The Multimedia Encyclopedia* pales in so far as it has little of the former's fun, ingenuity and real sense of live dinosaurs lurking somewhere in your system.

Pretty good ★★★★★



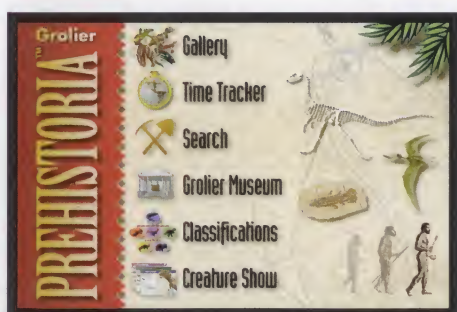
See also



Prehistoria

Billed as "a Multimedia Who's Who of prehistoric life", *Prehistoria*'s brave claim to fame is that it spans five hundred million years of grunts and growls. As you might expect from Grolier the coverage is pretty complete, featuring everything from Timeline tutorials to creature shows and galleries. With videos, illustrations, sounds and photos complementing the proceedings, as you delve into facts on more than 500 known dinosaurs, the effect is somewhat over-powering.

To ease matters there's a sophisticated text search engine which you can use to gain



▲ *Prehistoria* is just as comprehensive in both approach and content as the other reference titles we've looked at. It's just that there's even more because it covers three times the timespan.

access to facts quickly and a series of audio-visual essays which you can just sit back and watch. But the hour of multimedia footage serves well to link together the combination of entertainment and education in a disc that goes beyond the dinosaur age and introduces us to our own first footsteps.

While similar in both approach and content to *Microsoft Dinosaurs* and Sony's *Dinosaurs: A Multimedia Encyclopedia*, *Prehistoria* is worth checking out simply because of its depth and scope. So if 500 million years is your kind of timescale – and not just a mere 150 million – then there's plenty here to get your teeth into.

Very good



Grolier's *Prehistoria* is distributed in this country by Mindscape (☎ 01444 246333), and costs £70.



Jurassic Park the Screen Saver

You'd probably have to be totally bonkers about *Jurassic Park* the movie to buy this, but then it's only as nutty as buying a *Star Trek* screen saver. You can assign this collection of images and sounds as slideshow screen savers or Windows wallpaper. And since there are over 50 Mb of stills and

audio from the movie it's unlikely you'll tire of the high resolution extracts on show.

You can also assign the various sounds to all the usual system level audio messages which would otherwise greet you as dull beeps. Or you can give your PC a password protection system similar to that used on the computers in the movie. Or listen to your favourite extracts from the film. Or read up on the biographies of the main characters. There are even a few details about dinosaurs in here too. And a handful of video clips from the actual film.

So, yes, as you can see, we're talking complete and utter bonkers. If you're an aficionado of *After Dark 2.0* screen saver modules, you might care to look at this because it's fully compatible, though be warned that Windows will probably grind to halt if you install every possible option.



▲ *Jurassic Park: the Screen Saver* isn't all just slideshows and Windows Wallpaper en masse though. Here's one of the video clips from the actual movie...

Average



Jurassic Park: the Screen Saver is the work of Asymetrix, and is distributed by numerous resellers. Check with your regular stockist for availability and price.

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Just for laughs

Laugh and the world laughs with you...but can CD-ROMs really be funny or will you regret spending your last fifty quid in an attempt to amuse yourself? **Jon Smith** has a little giggle with the aid of his PC and a selection of discs.



What makes you laugh? The verbal dexterity and well-tuned punchlines of a standup comedian? The charm of a corny limerick?

Perhaps the structured madness of a classic TV sketch?

Well, whatever brand of humour you prefer, it's all here on CD-ROM. The latest addition to the genre this month comes from Gametek's *Saturday Night Live*, so we thought we'd take a brief look at some other comedy-based discs.

So how do you get a computer to make people laugh? Three of these discs take a similar approach, basing their content on video performances of jokes or sketches. While this seems to be the ideal solution, there are three major drawbacks. Firstly, it's difficult to fit much video on a CD – explaining, perhaps, why *Saturday Night Live* requires two discs.

Secondly, the video picture is inferior to that expected by punters

familiar with full-screen TV. And finally, it's difficult to structure these clips in any meaningful way; all too often, video extracts are merely strung together 'as is', offering the viewer nothing more than a videotape would.

To find out how well our contenders dealt with these obstacles, and how the fourth disc avoided them by taking an entirely different approach, read on...

...but before you do, I'd like to mention one title we haven't looked at here, because we recently reviewed it. *Monty Python's Complete Waste of Time* is an enjoyable disc that manages to capture the anarchic spirit of the original comedy series.

In terms of presentation, it has more energy and imagination than all these discs put together, so if any of these reviews seem a little downbeat, remember, it's only by comparison with the rather fine Monty Python title.

Anyway, on with the show...

"What did the programmer do when she found blades of grass growing in her disc drive?"

She modem."

A Million Laughs

Monty Python's Complete Waste of Time – We reviewed *Monty Python's Complete Waste of Time* in November's issue (7). It's published by 7th Level, and is distributed by Longman Logotron (☎ 01223 425558) at a price of £54.99.

Continued overleaf ►

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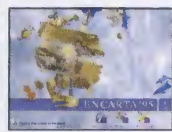
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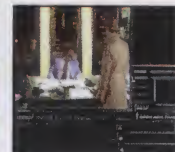
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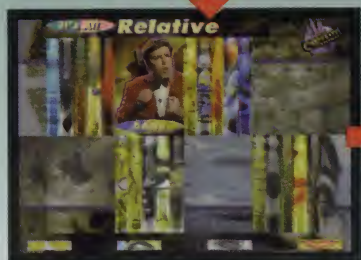


A voyage round my father...

We kick off with a racy little video announcing that this is a product of the 'Short Attention Span Theater'...



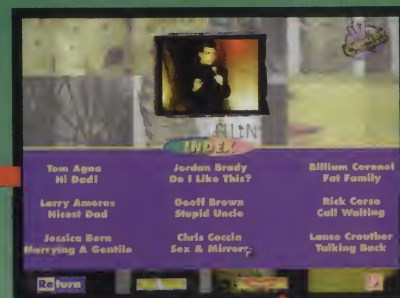
...and move straight into the main contents screen. Move the pointer over a category to see it illuminated...



At any time, we can pick out a favourite routine from the Index, without messing about with all those categories, or...



...we can skip to the screen saver, where clips pop up at random to save our monitor from burn-in damage.



...so we click on Billiam Coronel (because of his funny first name) and we're rewarded with his performance.



...then click to go to that sub-menu. Here we've chosen 'Dads', but we could have had 'Kissing Cousins'...

... 'Dysfunctional Family' or even 'Italian Comics'. Anyway, there are several routines to choose from...

"I got to see my family recently. It was time - I was actually starting to feel a little self-esteem."

Mark Roberts

It's all relative

Making people laugh is pretty difficult if they don't know what you're talking about. Similarly, the more an audience can recognise themselves in a situation, the more likely they are to find it funny. This is why, presumably, most professional comedy centres around areas of life that everyone has in common, notably sex, relationships and family life.

It's All Relative deals exclusively with the last of these categories (relative, geddit?). Jokes about mums, dads, aunts, grandparents and even nieces are told by professional stand-up comics in the now-familiar teeny video window.

This choice of subject matter works well; there's plenty of scope for variety, but the topic is narrow enough to strike a chord with most

viewers. There's none of the dated or culturally-specific humour that lets down some of the other discs we've looked at this month.

The extracts are all taken from live routines, so they're well-performed and feature a handy audience laugh track to prompt you when you really don't 'get' it. They've all been well-chosen, too; just lengthy enough to give you a real taste for each individual performer's style without becoming boring.

Although Emo Philips was the only artist that I'd heard of, each of the 54 performers (all of them American) was talented and experienced. I was even prompted to try to get hold of some further material by a couple of them.

And that's pretty much all there is to it - no background information, no messing about, just a few video

clips indexed by topic. You can choose to incorporate them into a screen saver, which throws up clips at random to prevent screen burn-in. It's an amusing diversion, but I can't really see myself using it.

It's All Relative is certainly the best-designed of the four discs we've looked at this month. *Saturday Night Live* is more daringly presented, but doesn't quite pull it off.

But despite the fact that I enjoyed *It's All Relative* for a little while, and most of it is actually pretty funny, I don't think that's really enough. It's certainly no more entertaining or interesting than a videotape of the same material would be. Fun, then, but ultimately a little disappointing.

Average



Information

It's All Relative is published by Time Warner and is available from numerous resellers. It's soon to be re-released as part of the CD-ROM Interactive Collection: Volume One from Kixx (☎ 0121 625 3366).

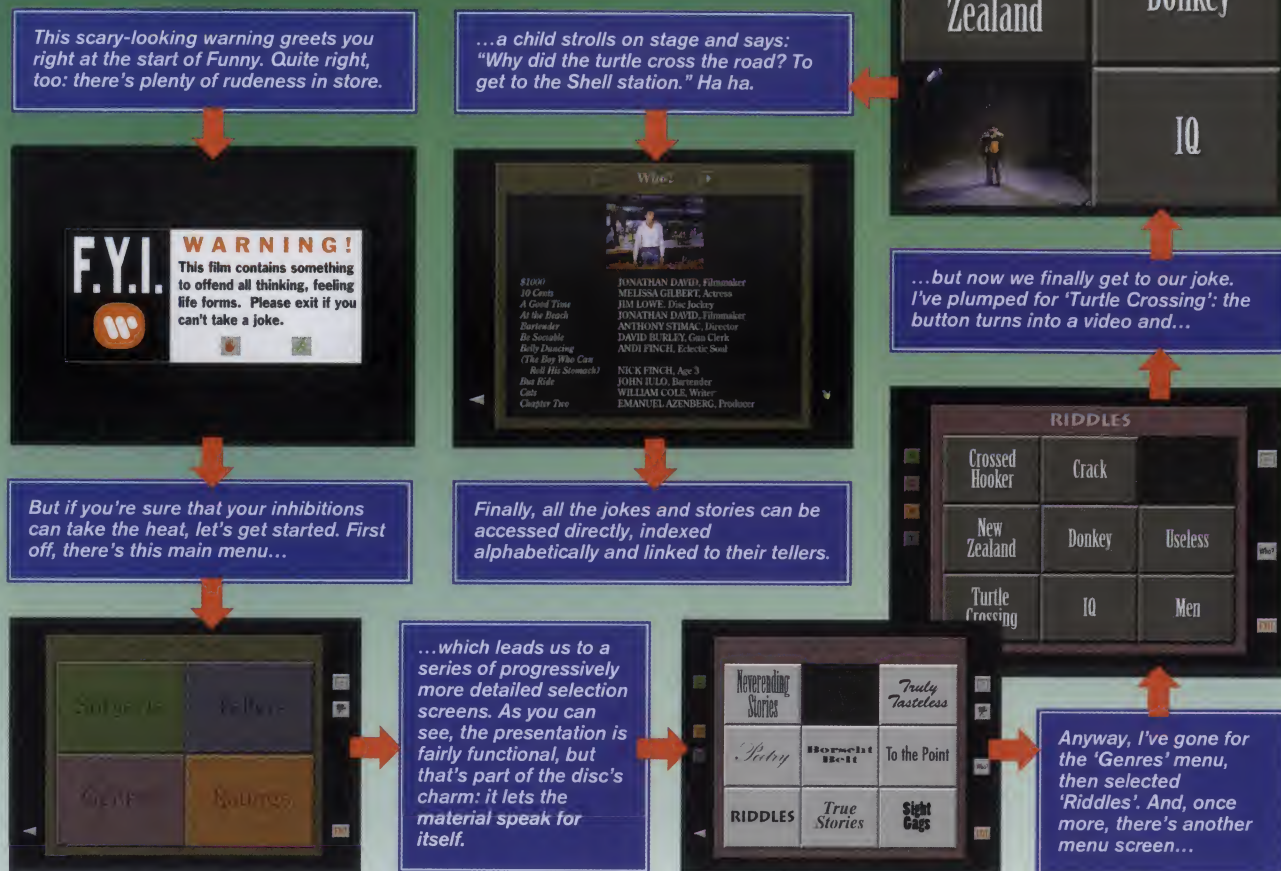
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This guy goes running into a psychiatrist's office, going "I'm a teepee, I'm a wigwam, I'm a teepee, I'm a wigwam," and the doctor says, "Calm down – you're two tents!"

Lars Pedersen, Projectionist

It's a funny old world...



Funny



What kind of joke does an accountant tell? How about a carpenter? Or an actor? They're all here –

Funny features 84 different people from many walks of life (but nearly all of them white Americans, mostly involved in the media). Between them, they tell 93 jokes and stories of varying quality and length, from the "Take my wife – please" snappiness of Henny Youngman to the Kim Philby-related reminiscences of Murray Sayle.

It's often noted how difficult it is to do anything worthwhile in the tiny video window so beloved of many CD-ROM productions. But here the format really does suit the content. It lends these performances a kind of immediacy, and accentuates the sense of intimacy carefully cultivated during the filming.

The pleasure you get from spending time with *Funny* is not, on the whole, through the jokes themselves, although a couple of them are good enough to raise a genuine laugh. It's the personalities of the joke-tellers that keep you enthralled, as they reveal themselves through their narratives.

Posture, accent, gestures, emphasis – all these work to create a series of revealing and fascinating portraits. In the time it takes to tell the shortest joke, you can give away a huge amount of information about yourself, and that's what makes this disc so interesting. Often, the video will run on just a little before and after the actual telling, to enhance the atmosphere of intimacy and give us another level of insight into the performer's personality.

The clips can be accessed in a

number of ways. You can sit back and watch *Funny*, the Movie, which strings them all together into a feature-length film. You can set up a screen saver module that'll play through a selection of jokes when you stop using your computer. Or – the most sensible way to use the thing – you can choose your own jokes and view them one at a time.

Choose your method of classification – by genre, rating, teller or subject – then move on to a sub-menu and look at jokes about religion, say, or those told by people with blonde hair, or those that are particularly rude (of which there are a great deal – *Funny* is definitely not for the prudish). It's fun. You never know what you're going to turn up, and it all runs very smoothly.

The problem is that there's only a limited amount of film footage to view, and although you will come back to some of the excerpts, it's difficult to imagine anyone watching them time and again. But it's still an entertaining and well put-together package. *It's All Relative* is funnier, but *Funny* has more charm.

Average



Continued on page 87 ►



Information

Funny is published by Time Warner (☎ 01604 602800), and should be available from your distributor for around £35.

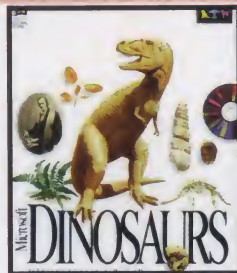
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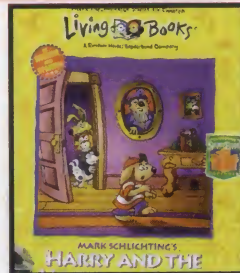


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It's Saturday; it's night; it's...

After a brief intro, we find ourselves here at the main contents screen. The icons animate when you move over them...

The tickets in the centre of the main contents screen lead to this stage, where you can view a selection of videos...

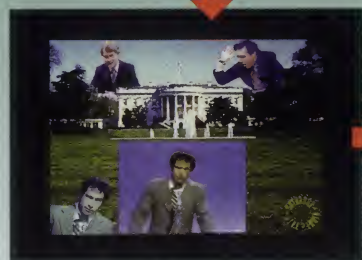


...or the beer can, which offers a choice of commercials. Here's Dan Ackroyd touting the 'Super Bass-O-Matic'.

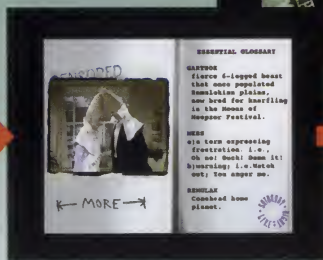


...but this flash presentation fails to mask the clunkiness of the interface, or the limited amount of content on offer.

...amongst them being this classic piece of Samurai-based insanity from the great John Belushi.



Here we've clicked on the White House, which offers us three short clips from Presidential-based sketches. We're on the 'classic' disc here, by the way, so we get Chevy Chase et al.



Alternatively, we could have clicked on the scrapbook, and paged through a short selection of photos and text...

"Yes, fish-eaters, the days of troublesome scaling, cutting and gutting are over, with the new Super Bass-O-Matic '76."

Dan Ackroyd

Saturday night live

There's nothing funny about shelling out fifty quid for a CD-ROM that offers no more than an hour's intermittent amusement. And there's nothing funny about taking a selection of brief video clips, slapping a hastily-designed interface over them and calling it 'a multi-media experience'. Strange, then, that this new release should find itself in the 'comedy' section, when there's so much about it that isn't very funny at all.

Conceived to celebrate the 20th

anniversary of America's most notorious comedy show, *Saturday Night Live* had an enviable resource of classic material to draw upon. And, indeed, there is some excellent stuff here – John Belushi in his prime; Dana Carvey in his element; Dan Ackroyd and Chevy Chase actually being funny.

But the show's unique qualities just aren't conveyed successfully through the short video snippets that form the bulk of this double-disc set. The fundamental problem is that most of the comedy is character-

based. Out of context, the excerpts have no time to build their characters into anything substantial. Instead, they're just an empty succession of silly faces and strange catchphrases.

Only the commercial spoofs manage to adapt to this new digital environment. Short and self-contained, there are around ten of these subversive adverts, and they supply most of the actual laughs the set has to offer.

The quality of the video image is generally good – the discs were developed by the producers of the TV show who had access to the master tapes. But a small window can never have the same impact as a full-screen videotaped recording.

Basically, *Saturday Night Live* is about as 'interactive' as a video recorder remote control.

The interface manages to be both mundane and misleading; the content is patchy and unengaging. *Saturday Night Live* is an almost amateurish multimedia experiment that fails to work on any level. The only person laughing is the guy who charges £50 for this disaster.

Seriously flawed ★☆☆☆☆



Information

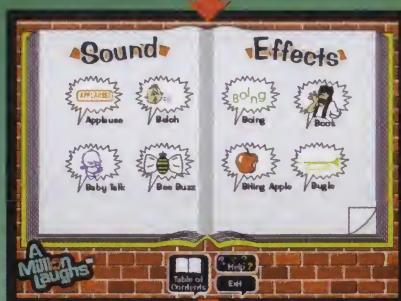
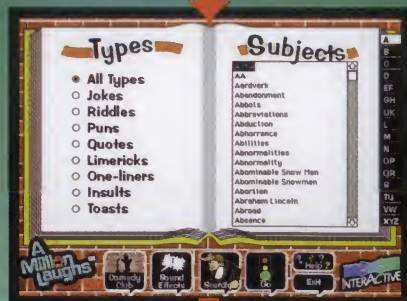
Saturday Night Live comes on two discs, one featuring 'classic' material, the other 'current'. The set costs £49.99, and is published by Gametek (☎ 01753 553445).

Continued overleaf ▶

Did you hear the one about...

Navigation through *A Million Laughs* is pretty straightforward. Any adventure into comedy starts with this screen.

There are a couple of other features: an animated comedian will narrate certain jokes, chosen from a list of around 60...

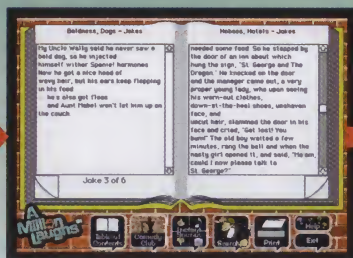


So, if you like, you can enter more specific search criteria which should narrow down the number you're offered.



From here, you can jump directly into any category of joke, simply by paging through the alphabetical list...

...and there are several pages of comedy sound effects. It really is pretty hard to imagine a use for these, though.



...then it's merely a question of paging through the joke 'book', searching for something that makes you laugh.

This is a fairly weak way of going about things, especially when certain categories can contain more than 1,200 jokes.

"Why did the cyclops have to close his school?"

"Because he only had one pupil."

Riddles –
Animals –
School

A million laughs

This guy walks into a bar with a cat and a dog. The bartender says, "What'll you have?" The dog looks at the bartender and says, "I'll have a beer, the cat would like a gin and my master will have a brandy."

"I can't believe it", says the bartender. "Your dog can talk!" "Don't let him fool you", says the guy. "The cat's a ventriloquist."

But seriously folks... Welcome to the wacky world of *A Million Laughs*, the comedy database on CD-ROM. It stores 175,000 gags (or so it claims – I didn't feel inclined to count them).

The subjects are alphabetically indexed, from Aardvarks to Zoos, and you can search swiftly to find the perfect joke for any occasion. You can enter complex search parameters and look, for example, for jokes about 'jobs' and 'health'.

There's a wide variety of humour, but unfortunately much of it isn't very funny. Gags are grouped by type – jokes, riddles, limericks, one-liners, quotes, puns, insults and toasts – and vary from the familiar ("The main penalty for bigamy is having two mothers-in-law") to the bizarre. Some of the material is nonsensical – if you can work out why "Hyenas are found in Africa, Harry laughed" is funny, please write in and tell me.

There are lengthy anecdotes and brisk one-liners; groan-inducing puns and surprising *bons mots*. Any disc that can move swiftly from a limerick about a young girl from Gloucester (they couldn't defrost her) to a reflective piece from Dorothy Parker must have something going for it.

And, although many jokes don't work, there are plenty that do. With 175,000 to choose from, you'll soon

come across something that tickles your fancy. Most of those I tried in the office raised either groans or outright abuse, but a few managed to induce laughter.

That's not to say that *A Million Laughs* doesn't have its problems. Many jokes are repeated, sometimes with slight variations to indicate they were culled from several sources. And there are technical niggles too, like the way the contents screen resets to the start of the 'A' index after every browse, or the fact that you can't modify your search parameters if they fail to turn up any finds; you're just taken straight back to the main index.

Hardly a million laughs, then, but a good few chuckles. And that's got to be worth something.



Information

A Million Laughs is published by FutureVision (formerly Interactive Publishing) and is distributed in this country by, among others, CD-Direct (☎ 01703 455115). It costs around £45.

Average



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▲ Some of the pictures are stunning, like this one of an Oceanic Whitetip exploring corals. With the gurgling water in the background, you could almost believe you were under the ocean. Unfortunately, some of the videos aren't so sharp.

The first time I saw *Jaws*, I was terrified. Okay, I was only ten at the time, but I was wary of Weston-Super-Mare for years afterwards. So I waited in fear and trepidation to see what *Sharks!* would reveal...

Your journey into the unknown begins in an observation vessel, with the intermittent echo sounder occasionally breaking the gentle burbling of the ocean. It seems a shame to disturb the atmosphere by introducing sharks into the vicinity.

But this is what you are here for, and if you want to know about sharks, you'll love this. There's an "ocean of fascinating facts" waiting to be viewed through the windows of your vessel.

There are several options for you to choose from. I headed for the Video Gallery, which is full of shark 'movies'. You can even watch Peter Benchley, the author of *Jaws*, talking about the film. He no longer sees sharks as the villains, however: for every person killed by a shark, 4½ million sharks are killed by man. Whew!

Flick through the other sections, and you'll see facts and pictures galore, and of course, the obligatory Ask the Experts section. And much as I hate the things, there's no mistaking that these guys (and girl) are true shark enthusiasts. In case you have any doubts, there's a biography of each expert, so you know you can trust what they say.

The disc is nice to look at, and easy to use. You can jump about looking up related material. And it covers virtually everything you could possibly want to know, including common questions and misconceptions.

If you get sick of peering out of the small windows to look at pictures, you can click on a magnifying glass to enlarge them to full screen size. You can also do this with the video screen, although it results in poorer quality.

Sharks! has a few drawbacks. The search facility ignored the words I put in, and I had to scroll through the index to find specific subjects. As for narration, you only hear it when the videos run, and the sound quality on the Peter Benchley interview wasn't too hot.

I have to admit, I spent most of my time flicking idly through the disc, because although it looks nice, there was nothing to grab my attention. If you're not a shark fan already, it won't convert you.

Pretty good



▲ I wouldn't like to be close enough to photograph this grey reef shark.



▲ The main menu resembles an underwater observation vessel.



▲ Three guesses as to how the hammerhead shark got its name.



▲ Here's a nurse shark resting, after a busy day with the children.



▲ The experts are an intelligent lot and their biographies prove it.

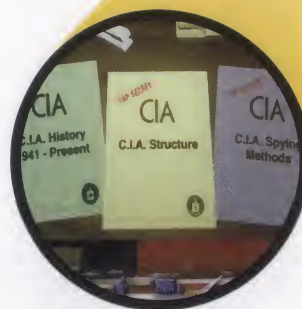
Information

Sharks! is published by The Discovery Channel, and is distributed by Computer Manuals (☎ 0121 706 6000). It costs £44.95.

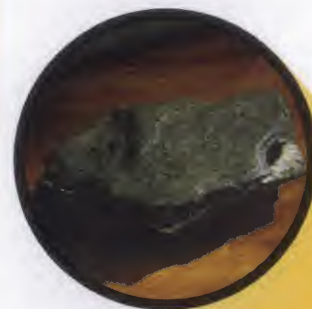
In the spotlight

CIA

Open up a *For Your Eyes Only* document and discover... well, what? **Rachel Harrison** found the subject intriguing and the title promising, so what did she uncover while snooping in *CIA - The Secret Files*?



▲ Foolish, don't you think, leaving files lying around on a desk?



▲ This strange object is a spy container, full of secrets.



▲ The main menu gives you a chance to snoop about an office, just as if you were a real CIA investigator. But you'll find there's little of interest hidden here.

information on Berlin, Bolivia, Chile, Cuba, Indonesia, Iran, Italy and Vietnam. There's lots of heavy text to plod through, and you can watch several narrated videos, but the sound and picture quality are poor, and sometimes the video runs out while someone is speaking. This may be a fault in the Beta version which will be rectified before general release.

Return to the main menu and you can sneak a look at the files lying on the desk, containing CIA History, Spying Methods and Structure. Lots of text here, and a few dull pictures. The only items of interest are the double agents.

CIA - The Secret Files does have lots of information, but it isn't particularly interesting, and doesn't reveal anything new. It also contains John Ranelagh's book, *CIA - A History*, which you can read in text format. But this isn't enough to hold your attention, and although it tries to be unbiased, you do get a distinct feeling that it's a celebration of the glorious victory over Communism.

The disc lacks many features now common on CD-ROMs. There is no search facility. The cross-referencing is poor and, on our test version at least, crashed in places. Hypertext links are few and far between. Both need brushing up before it's released.

If you really want to know about the CIA, buy John Ranelagh's book instead.



▲ The intro screen promises to reveal the CIA's secrets. It lies.



▲ The timeline doesn't really convey anything meaningful.

E

spionage! A shiver ran down my spine. I'm fascinated by spies. At least I was, until I saw *CIA: The Secret Files*.

At first the disc looks promising enough. The intro video gives you hints about the secrets behind the CIA, and proclaims "The truth is even more complex and fascinating."

Complex it is, fascinating it ain't! If you're seeking previously unearthed conspiracies, forget it.

The best part of the disc is the main menu, an office waiting to be explored. So what happens if you click on this video tape? Or the telephone? Well, no luck there.

The calendar only reveals the less-than-helpful timeline. The map on the wall has some countries highlighted. Click on them, and dark secrets are revealed: the capital, population, area, and currency of the country. I felt as if I were back at school.

That left the computer, a filing cabinet and three files. The computer revealed a quiz which you can't answer unless you've read the relevant information.

The filing cabinet contains



Average

★★★★☆

Information

CIA - The Secret Files is published by CD Vision (☎ 0181 503 0589) and costs £39.99. An MPEG version is also available, costing £49.99.



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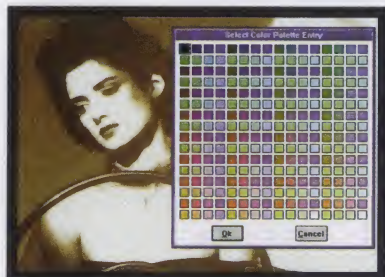
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Help!

Does wallpaper play tricks on your memory? Feeling wobbly about Windows 95? Steve Patient is the man with all the smart answers. Plus this month: Video for Windows, colours and PIF files.



▲ The chances of any two 256 colour palettes agreeing are low, so Windows reserves 20 colours to maintain a consistent appearance.

Colour palette

When I use a graphics editing program to load 256 colour images (I have a 256 colour Windows driver installed), wallpaper images and any others displayed often show incorrectly, but the Windows title bars and other bits never look strange. Why is this?

P Tripps, Coventry

Microsoft reserves 20 colours from the 256 in 256 video drivers and these are used for Windows standard bits and pieces, such as title bars – is the short answer. Sixteen of them are the original default DOS colours plus medium grey, eggshell white, olive and a powder blue. The 48 default colours available from the Color tool in Control Panel include these plus a random collection of solid and dithered

colours. Some dithered colours are so good you can only tell by looking at the Color/Solid box in the Define Custom Colors dialog box.

This clearly leaves 236 colours to play with. Inevitably, when trying to display two or more different 256 colour images, each with its own palette, something has to give. Windows video drivers should give priority to the window with the focus, and allow everything else to slide.

Of course, even 236 unique colours may not be enough, so in exceptional cases programs can take 254, leaving just black and white unchanged. A few do. More often, the extra colours will be dithered.

Windows 95

Am I going to have to upgrade to Windows 95 when new versions of applications are released for it? It's taken me long enough to get used to the vagaries of the present version.

G Higgins, Lowestoft

No. Windows 95 native applications will be 32-bit against the current 16-bit Windows programs. However, these 32-bit versions come with the Win32s files required to enable them to run under existing versions of Windows.

Don't write Windows 95 off before it arrives, though, it will have advantages for all users – for example,

it will run even existing programs faster. We're talking about the kind of speed gain you would get by upgrading your PC from a 386 to a 486. It's noticeable, and you don't get the same kind of speed gain running a 32-bit application under Windows 3.xx.

Memory – no problem

I have a book on Windows that advises not using Windows wallpaper because it uses up so much memory. Is this really a problem? I like wallpaper.

T Patel, London

No, it's a myth. The problem isn't so much system memory, of which most people have enough. Under Windows 3.0 wallpaper produced a big hit in Windows resources, three tiny but important 64K memory chunks. The resources reported in About on the Program Manager Help menu is always the resource heap hardest hit.

Under 3.0 the hit was in the GDI heap, and as large as 10 per cent. Under 3.1 this was restructured and wallpaper uses the User heap. You will probably find loading wallpaper doesn't reduce reported Windows resources at all.

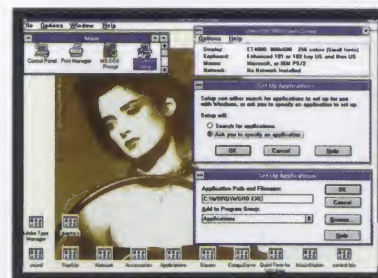
Impressed

I've been totally impressed with your coverdiscs so far, but I have a problem with Video for Windows. I installed version 1.1 from your issue 7 disc, but now video clips won't work on my PC.

J Howell, Leeds

Many new multimedia disc releases run with the new version 1.1 of Video for Windows. However, some people have had problems running it on their PCs. First of all, check that you're running Windows in a screen resolution of 640x480, or 800x600, with a colour depth of 256 colours. This usually cures the problem, but if all else fails you'll have to revert to the older Video for Windows 1.0.

Unfortunately, the backward 'downgrade' is not completely straightforward, as you cannot simply install the old version over the new one. First of all, you'll need to delete two files from your Windows System



▲ If you want to run DOS applications from Windows, Setup will create PIF files for you.

sub-directory manually. These are called AVIFILE.DLL and AVICAP.DLL; you can delete them with Windows File Manager or straight from DOS.

Now you can re-install Video for Windows 1.0 from one of your older CD-ROM discs. Microsoft is due to bring out an interim release of Video for Windows 1.1 shortly, which should cure the problems.

PIF files

Despite having upgraded to a new Windows PC I have a lot of DOS applications I must continue using – I support several voluntary organisations that use older, low cost PCs unsuitable for running Windows but perfectly good for running DOS word processors, etc. I understand it's best to run DOS applications from Windows using a PIF file. How do I do it?

J Kidd, Birmingham

Most DOS applications will run in the default DOS box anyway, but Windows also knows about many DOS programs and can automatically create individual PIF files for them along with an icon in Program Manager from which to run it.

After installing the DOS application on your new PC, run Windows Setup from the Main group. From the Options menu choose Set Up Applications and fill in the resulting dialog box.

End ■

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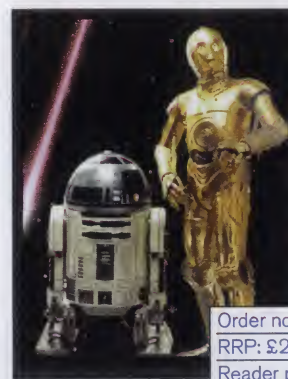
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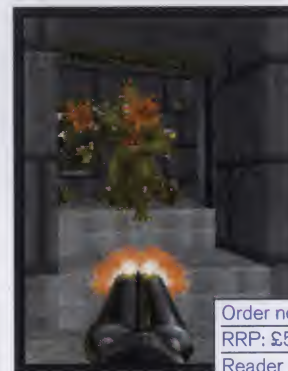
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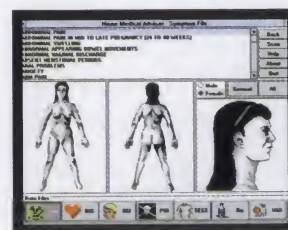
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▲ If you've got the time you can sit back and watch your missiles fly.

in the same genre. It's also the first CD-ROM-only fight sim and, for once, all the space has been put to good use.

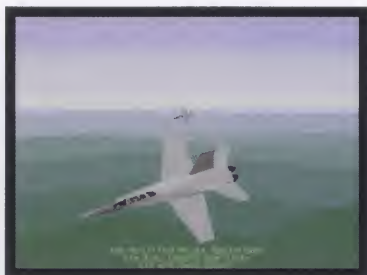
The game casts you as a pilot aboard a US carrier in the Black Sea. The democratic government of Russia has been overthrown by a military junta, dedicated to the reformation of the Soviet Union, and you're there to defend peace, justice and the Ukraine, with which America has allied itself.

US Navy Fighters gives you three main options. In Quick Mission you choose various parameters (such as number, type and skill of your wingmen and the enemy), then jump in and start shooting. The Campaign choice sees you flying a series of predefined missions. Professional Mission is a complete mission editor, letting you define every aspect of the upcoming flight.

All this is fairly standard stuff, but is well presented and very polished. Where the game really shines, though, is in the air.



▲ For example, there's the chase camera that follows your aircraft.



▲ For dogfighting, the 'you to the target' tactical view is very handy indeed.



▲ As is the 'target to you' tactical view, where you can watch yourself approach.



▲ For purely cosmetic value, you can also just look at whatever you want.

The graphics are excellent, and you can choose from any resolution between 320 by 200 (standard VGA) to 1024 by 768 (Pentiums only). Likewise, the sound is superb. But best of all is the way the game plays. The



▲ Flying low through cities, while fun, can be rather dangerous...

various aircraft are all easy to get to grips with and use a unique system of instrumentation. Instead of the main view being split between the inside of the cockpit and the view forward, you see only the 'Heads Up' Display. You can open small windows on to the screens and instruments you desire. Combine this with the various difficulty levels and you have an incredibly flexible system.

US Navy Fighters is one of the best modern combat simulations for the PC. It's slick, professional and caters for the whole spectrum of fight sim fans, from those who just want to see enemy planes explode in flames, to those who want to know all about flight envelopes, angles of attack and thrust to weight ratios. But most importantly, it's fun.

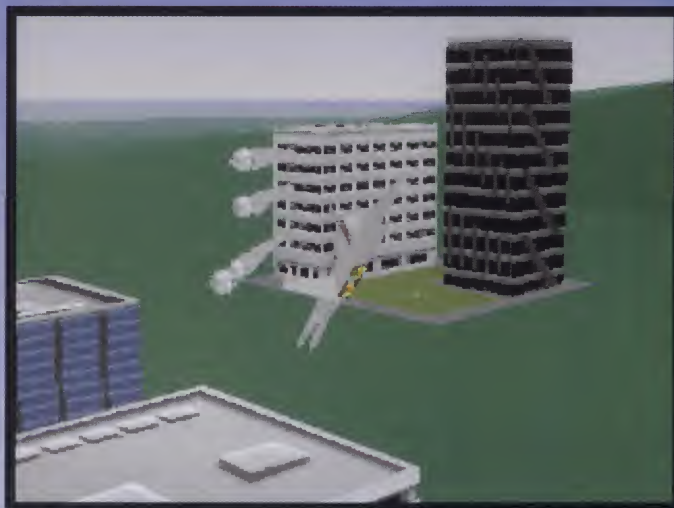
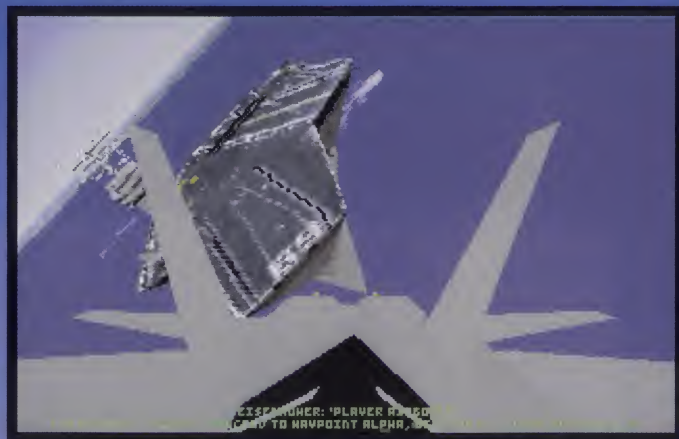
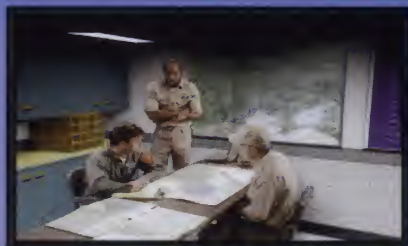
Very Good ★★★★★☆



▲ A rear view is vital in combat, and just nice at other times in the game.

Big planes, big guns and even bigger egos...

A typical campaign mission goes something like this. First of all you get a briefing from your commanding officer, in which he will say things like "okay, gentlemen" and "this is the real thing". Then it's into the cockpit of your plane (a shiny new F-22 Lightning in this case) and before you know it you're screaming off the deck at insane speed.



Having dealt with the pesky Russian, you locate the unsuspecting ship and dive in for a quick fly-by. Tactically, it's not a very sound move, but you're a macho American Naval Aviator, and they train you to do these things. Having suitably impressed the target, you let fly with some rather large missiles. Then it's just a matter of flying home...

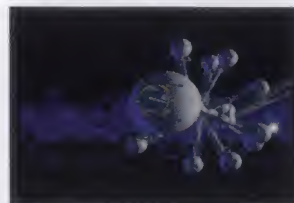


On your way to the target (some nasty Russian ships that have offended your CO's sensibilities) you cut across the coast, flying low through a city to hide yourself. Unfortunately, someone launches some missiles in your direction and you have to climb to evade them... straight into the path of a Russian fighter just itching for the chance to shoot down a capitalist stooge.



Creature Shock

Interactive movie, straight shoot-'em-up or rolling demo with a few blasting bits? **Andy Butcher** pulls on his combat boots and selects a large gun.



▲ Here's a quick look at all the vital plot elements in *Creature Shock*. First, the lost ship...



▲ ...commanded, of course, by the anatomically improbable captain who's only hope is...



▲ One day someone will come up with an alien monstrosity that goes for your foot. Until then we'll just have to put up with yet more face-huggers. Sigh.



▲ Some of these early monsters even have guns. Rotten cheats...

crack soldier to discover what happened. That's you.

This is all presented in beautifully designed and animated graphical sequences – giving you the merest taste of what's to come. On approaching the last reported position of the ship in your small scout craft you are attacked by a horde of strange constructs, and are thrown into the first stage of the game proper – a very simple into-the-screen shoot 'em-up, reminiscent of *NovaStorm*. While there's nothing particularly wrong with this section, it's far from awe-inspiring. Your gasps of disbelief are instead delayed until you defeat the 'end of level boss', and discover the remains of the exploration ship, seemingly melded with an organic asteroid. Entering the bizarre combination, you land and proceed on foot.

It's at this point that *Creature Shock* gets really impressive, in a graphical sense at least. Moving through tunnels and rooms in a series of silky smooth 'steps', fighting incredibly animated monsters, and watching amazing cinematic 'cut scenes' at critical points. There can be little doubt



espite the many abject failures of the past few years, software publishers still seem set upon the concept of the 'interactive movie'. It

seems to have become something of a Holy Grail to CD games programmers the world over, even though the nearest things to it (the *Alone in the Dark* games) are disc-based. In fact, such has been its influence that many CD games that don't even claim to be 'interactive movies' show the influence of the idea.

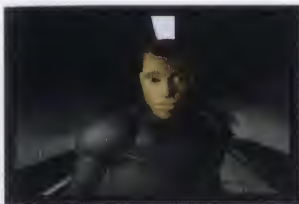


▲ As well as a gun you also have this handy shield to protect you.

Creature Shock is a case in point – a game that seems slightly undecided as to what it's trying to be. Set in the near future, the game begins with an exploration vessel being attacked by a 'living asteroid' in the orbit of Titan. When Earth detects the ship's distress beacon, it sends in a

Information

Creature Shock has an RRP of £44.99. It comes on two discs and is published by Virgin (☎ 0181 960 2255).



▲ ...this fine example of the hard-as-nails-but-still-sensitive-and-caring hero type.

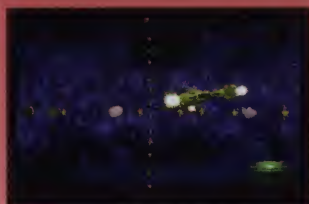


▲ Who'd be stuck without power-up points, even if they do need defending from...



▲ ...the monsters, of which there are a great variety and even greater number.

Another Day in the Life of an Interstellar Hero



◀ Life's tough as an interstellar hero. Almost before you get started there's wave after wave of aliens to blow to bits.

▶ Once the minions have been dealt with it's time for their big boss to soak up some punishment.



◀ Then it's straight into the thick of it as soon as you land inside the strange organic asteroid.

▶ Even the seemingly innocent tunnels hide hideous monsters just itching for the chance to bite your face off.



▲ Like this one, whose weak spots are its eyes. Hit them enough times and...

▶ ...the nasty thing doesn't even have the decency to die, but disappears into this slime pool.



that *Creature Shock* is one of the most visually impressive CD games ever. It's just stunning in every way, and all the separate elements mesh together virtually seamlessly, creating a tense and effective atmosphere.

Unfortunately, the mouth-watering lusciousness of the visuals is not quite matched by the gameplay. When it comes down to it,

Creature Shock is just a series of mini shoot-em-ups separated by mazes of similar-looking tunnels. It's by no means as restrictive as the infamous *Dragon's Lair*, but neither is it a patch on the completely free environments of *System Shock* or *Doom*. On top of this, there's no auto-mapping feature, so the only way to get anywhere is to sit down with a sheet of paper and make your own map. There's really no excuse for this kind of old technology, but even worse is the lack of a mouse-sensitivity setting. In a completely mouse-controlled game, it's an appalling omission.

Creature Shock is a difficult game to mark. The graphics really are amazing, it's got a good atmosphere, and is actually quite fun to play. However, the novelty may wear off quickly, at which point it will end up being one of those games that you pull off the shelf to impress your friends, but don't play at any other time.



▲ Coming out of organic corridors into high-tech areas like this helps create a weird atmosphere.

Pretty good



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Armored fist

Blowing up the enemy can be satisfying, but it's the battle strategy that's important.

Josse Bilson is stuck in the mire with a damaged left tank track...



▲ If you're in a spot of bother, call for air assistance and the cavalry will appear in the form of a chopper.



▲ One of the trickiest parts is defending your tank. My left tank track, engine and night vision are all damaged.

Theoretically at least, *Armored Fist* is an entirely straightforward game. It's a fairly conventional battle simulation where you,

as a Task Force Commander, control a single tank, then a squadron, then a bevy of armoured helicopters.

The basic controls are intuitive – accelerate, brake, steer, swivel your gun turret, lock missile targets... oh, and there's a big red button with 'FIRE' written across it, which must do something. But when it comes to manoeuvring a lumbering great tank around a battlefield fast enough to complete complex timed missions, things become much more complicated.

You're given a briefing, so check your map and locate the enemy targets, floor the accelerator, and head towards the enemy, knocking over as many trees as possible. Why? Because anything sturdier than a sapling makes a beautiful crunching noise – more convincing than the exploding artillery you're unloading, but not as amusing as



▲ There's an option to control Eastern Forces equipment too, but the objectives are the same.

Information

The price of *Armored Fist* had not been fixed when *CD-ROM Today* went to press, but it is published by US Gold (☎ 0121 625 3366).

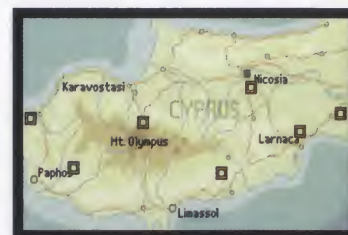
the lame staccato machine gun you'll rarely use.

When you come across a lone enemy tank or fuel dump it's mighty satisfying to aim and fire manually. Just point and click around the view window to select targets – the 'Target Destroyed' message is more gratifying when it's all your own work.

Once you've got the adrenaline pumping, the addictive nature of the game is such that you'll need to take on more complex missions. And once you're more deeply involved, requesting air or artillery support and confusing the enemy with smoke grenades become as important as the basic attacks.

And then you have the option to build your own campaigns, and you're opening up a whole new exciting can of worms. Placing mine fields, air bases, trees and terrain, and altering the available battle time transform the solid gameplay into a hugely flexible and involving package.

Yes, there are faults. The entire nature of such games is



▲ Click on the green squares to choose battles from each campaign. Mt Olympus looks tempting.



▲ The M1 Abrams was named after Creighton Abrams, deputy commander of US forces in Vietnam.



▲ The view screen graphics at their best. But wait a minute – this is a friendly tank. Hold your fire!

questionable, but *Armored Fist* concentrates much more on strategy than gore and destruction. The graphics are questionable, too. While the intro and incidental sections are impressive, and the controls sections are clear, the view window can get horribly pixellated, and is downright confusing in night-time conflict. Luckily, though, this never becomes enough of a problem to make the game unplayable.

On balance, then, this is a well-designed, absorbing, strategic battle game, with enough excitement to get you playing and more than enough depth to keep you hooked.

Good



▲ The Bradley IFV's missiles can destroy heavy armour. Handy, eh?

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▲ Now then, do I stop to talk to Mr Tedious there, or simply get launched?

Retribution

Once again we're catapulted into a bleak, futuristic setting where humans have made such a mess of things we're fit only for alien fodder. But **Andy Dyer** hopes that the real future isn't quite so average.



▲ Travelling at high speed is good for avoiding attacks from other aircraft, but ultimately it makes shooting targets more time difficult. Keep it slow.

The future looks like it's going to be a very grim place indeed. At least, it will be according to the game designers at Gremlin. Apparently, our planet will be in a terrible state by the year 2396. So bad, in fact, that an alien race called the Krellans will step in and restore peace, setting up colonies all over the galaxy. However, at



▲ Ah, now where would we be without a nicely rendered sequence between each mission?



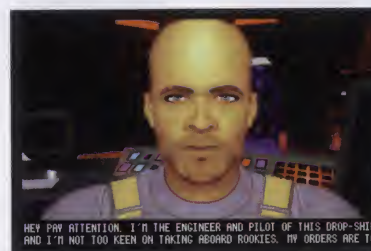
▲ This is one of the levels in which you drive a ground-based tank unit.

some point one clever chap will discover that whole colonies are disappearing and that the reason is simply that the Krellans are breeding us humans as food for the inhabitants of their home planet. Cue mission to destroy the evil Krellans.

It's an interesting plot, but sadly, one that leads us into rather a mediocre game. It's not bad by any means, but unlike many classic CD titles, I could be shown this in six months time and won't for the life of me be able to remember what it's called or what it's about. The problem is lack of originality. Anyone who's familiar with console games such as *Desert Strike* (or for that matter, any PC owner who's ever played a flight simulator) will immediately know the score.

You start at base camp, you get a briefing for your mission then you jump in your ship (or, for a few missions, your tank), fly (or drive) around, blow up the required installations, head for home and either get debriefed – if you did a good job – or get told off by your Commander if you fluffed it.

This fairly standard formula isn't entirely a bad thing. After all, many excellent games have been structured in this way, but all the while you're playing it is kind of difficult to exorcise from your head the thought that you've seen it all before, a dozen times. If the graphics had been of a particularly ingenious or accomplished sort then things would be different, but the visuals



▲ Not the jolliest of chaps, but occasionally he makes a lot of sense.



▲ Letting fly with everything you've got is no good in this game. Hit too many unspecified targets and you fail.

are also a fairly workmanlike example of the rolling texture-mapped landscapes we've seen oh-so-often.

Don't be too put off by all this negativity though. Despite the fact that the developers haven't really gone all-out to produce something unique, what's here is done rather well. While there is little to applaud wildly, there's also very little to criticise heavily. Each aspect of the game is executed very smoothly and the fact that some effort has been made to vary the missions within their rigid framework has to be a good thing.

Retribution plays well, it looks good, it sounds good, and the programming is slick, but your life will be no more interesting for having played it, despite your wallet being considerably emptier.

Pretty good ★★★★★

Information

Retribution is developed and distributed by Gremlin Interactive (☎ 01742 753423) at a cost of £39.99. The minimum system required is a 33MHz 386, VGA, DOS 5.0 and above 4Mb RAM and 640K memory. A 486 is recommended.



▲ That's your bike just in front of your dashboard. How very odd.

Cyclemania

Could it be that Cyclemania has finally perfected the relationship between full-motion video and traditional gameplay? **Andy Dyer** thinks the answer is probably no...



▲ When everyone's lined up at the start the competition looks a bit daunting. You soon realise however that they're all just a little bit useless at riding.



▲ Every single time you crash you get a video clip of a real crash. It gets very dull after you've seen just one.



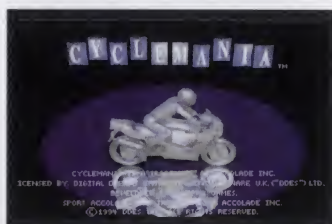
▲ This time you've really blown it. You're dead when the ambulance arrives.

The recent influx of poor CD-ROM titles has been quite admirably counterbalanced by a wave of good quality software. At least, that's my opinion.

You know, I believe that developers might just be getting to grips with the medium at last. Sadly, however, *Cyclemania* is here to prove that with all the good will in the world, there is still a long way to go.

What *Cyclemania* does is to provide the player with – structurally, at least – a solid motorcycle racing game with plenty of track-choosing, cycle-tinkering, tournament-playing options.

It then tries to improve the formula by pooh-poohing the more



▲ Hey, you can't beat a bit of chromium.



Information

Cyclemania is £39.99 from Accolade Software (☎ 0181 788 0200).

traditional methods of creating a moving racetrack, and goes straight for the complete full-motion video option. That's right: it's a revolutionary racing game in which the backdrops are real. But they're not real, are they? They're just video footage being replayed. And what's more, presumably to save memory, the quality is kept at that very specific level which makes the game appear as though it were being viewed through a rather generous helping of extra thick vegetable soup.

So *Cyclemania* looks a mess but, as we're so fond of saying, it's gameplay that counts. Unfortunately, the game also gets, if not a thumbs down, then a fairly wobbly thumbs horizontal.

To be utterly fair to them, the programmers have managed to fuse the real-time racing action and the video backdrops with a certain degree of success. But control-wise the game is extremely shaky and, what's even worse, it's far too easy. There are only six tracks to race on, and the whole experience quickly becomes pretty boring.

Where does all this leave us? Well, it leaves us without a decent CD-ROM cycle game. *Cyclemania* is an interesting effort, but it comes out a very poor second to *MegaRace*, which uses the same kind of video overlay techniques.



◀ The movement on the bikes is actually fairly groovy. It's that dreadful FMV scenery that lets it all down really.

If you're desperate for some two-wheeled race action, though, you could do worse than consider buying the Creative Labs 3DO card at around £200. It's a costly option, but it will allow you to play the excellent *Road Rash* motorbike-racing game, which knocks this non-starter into a rather sizeable cocked hat.

Flawed



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The Magazine Business Weekly Report, 27 October 1994

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*Well, there might be just one or two.

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A Month of New Toys...

Games Scene

Whether battling for the Rebel Alliance, or challenging the notorious Red Baron in a WWI aircraft, **Jon Smith** has had a busy month...

N

ormally the kind of person who'd save the best 'til last, I'm going to have to make an exception because I just can't wait that long to tell you all about the *X-Wing Collector's Edition*.

It's an almost inconceivably good game. Much has been said about *X-Wing*; it monopolised last year's charts and remains one of the top-selling PC games. But this new CD edition is even better.

For the uninitiated, *X-Wing* is a space combat simulator set in the *Star Wars* universe which combines neat presentational touches with nigh-on perfect gameplay. A deep concern for strategy and plot are effortlessly added to a brilliant action game to produce a pulse-poundingly unique experience.

This new edition sends the game screaming into a whole new level of excellence, though. The graphics have been updated to impressive effect, and digital sound effects elevate the presentation still further. Great new features like the digitised voices of stars from the movies are added seemingly as an afterthought.

Then there are a whole slew of missions to explore. Not only

do you get all those from the original game, along with both the expansion sets – *Imperial Pursuit* and *B-Wing* – there are six entirely new challenges, giving a value-for-money total of 122. There's one problem – for some reason, the map function now takes an unacceptably long time to access. But this is the only flaw in a beautiful glittering diamond of a game. I love it.

Masterpiece

If futuristic thrills of space combat aren't quite your cup of tea, you might find yourself excited by *Dawn Patrol*, the new World War I flight simulator from Rowan Software. Like *X-Wing*, it's



The old *X-Wing* graphics have been noticeably improved; the sound's better; there are many more missions... all in all, this is a perfect example of what a CD-ROM rerelease should be.

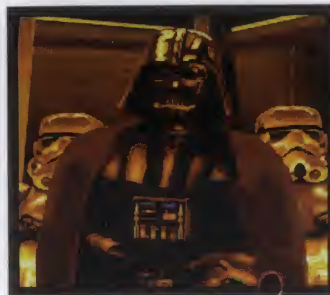
an exceptional disc; superb graphics and frantic action are matched by real depth.

Because you're flying primitive aircraft, slow-moving and under-gunned, all your strategic skills must be brought to bear if you don't want to finish up spiralling ignominiously groundwards. It's all the more gripping for taking place in a lovingly researched, totally authentic historical setting.

The extensive background material on the real-life pilots whose exploits you're recreating, together with the war history, creates an utterly involving simulation. With 13 aircraft to fly in more than 150 missions, *Dawn Patrol* is, simply, a masterpiece.

Deep

It's been a good month for combat games; we have also seen *Aces of the Deep*, which puts you



Published by Virgin (☎ 0181 960 2255), The *X-Wing Collector's Edition* CD costs £49.99.

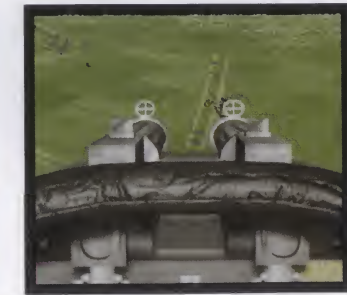
Excellent



in control of a German U-Boat in the Second World War. Again, like *Dawn Patrol*, this has a rigorous historical grounding. It even features video footage of interviews with surviving Second World War aces, along with a whole wealth of background articles and resources.

And when it comes to the game itself, *Aces of the Deep* performs almost as well as *Dawn Patrol*. The graphics are certainly up to scratch: the rolling waves, in particular, are queasily effective. There are plenty of atmospheric sound effects, and the gameplay, although slightly slower-paced, is no less gripping. It might sound facetious to describe this submarine game as 'deeply' enjoyable, but that's exactly what it is.

Three great games, then, but there are more to come...



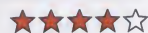
Dawn Patrol is brought to you by Empire Software (☎ 0181 343 9143), and costs £44.99.

Very Good



Aces of the Deep is published by Dynamix (☎ 01734 303322) and will set you back around £44.99

Very good



Continued overleaf ►



The new CD-ROM edition of *Campaign* is published by Empire Software (☎ 0181 343 9143) and costs £39.99.

Pretty good ★★★★★

Things are getting pretty tough this month here in *Games Scene*, because so many great discs have all come along at once that it's difficult to give them the space they deserve.

Take the *All New World of Lemmings*. Like everyone else, I loved the original. *Lemmings* had the perfect mixture of strategy and action that I personally find so appealing. It was simple to play, but incredibly taxing. The second game was much more complicated, and suffered slightly as a result. But *All New World of Lemmings* is a superb follow-up.

The graphics are much improved; there's more variety; and the lemmings themselves are significantly bigger. And there's a happy compromise between the simplicity of the first game and the complexity of the second, with a much greater emphasis on action-orientated gameplay. It's a lovely piece of work that I'd like to devote a lot more time to.

Funny

But I can't, because it's time to move on to another classic follow-up: *Kyrandia 3*. From the



Kyrandia 3 is published by Virgin (☎ 0181 960 2255) and costs £44.99.

Good ★★★★★

amazing animated intro sequence to the well-recorded dialogue that enlivens every moment of the game, you know that this is a disc of quality.

You'd expect nothing else, of course, from Westwood Studios, but this is still a fine effort. The backgrounds are lovely and the puzzles original and interesting. My only quibble is with the humour. Much of the dialogue is meant to be funny – there's even a laugh track should you forget at any time – but nothing ever really strikes a chord.

I can't help feeling that the overall tone of the piece, even though it's clearly intended to be slightly disorientating, is a little too alienating. But it's all good stuff nonetheless.

Nostalgia

If you're of an adventuring frame of mind, with a little streak of nostalgia to boot, you could do worse than check out *The Zork Anthology*, a new compilation of classic Infocom text adventures. There are six games on the disc – *Zork I*, *Zork II*, *Zork II*, *Beyond Zork*, *Zork Zero* and *Planetfall*.



The animated intro to *Kyrandia 3* really is a bit special. This unattractive fellow is Malcolm, the villain in the two previous games – you'll play as him in this new one.

Although they appear primitive, and none more so than in the light of state-of-the-art adventures like the aforementioned *Kyrandia 3*, these titles still have plenty of entertainment value to offer the patient and imaginative player. Conjuring up fantasy worlds through text alone is no easy task, but these titles manage to pull it off with aplomb.

The previously-released *Lost Treasures of Infocom* is a similar, but much larger, compilation: this new anthology could well be a better buy, because it's much cheaper and, to be honest, the novelty value of text adventures will wear off well before you've got through these six, let alone another dozen.

Authentic

More retrospective re-releases now, with the CD-ROM edition of *Campaign*, another historically authentic game from Empire Software, who published the similarly detailed *Dawn Patrol*.

We're in the midst of the First World War this time, though, but there's still just as much background information.

This rather creaky strategy game has been given a full multimedia makeover, with photographs, maps and digitised speeches, even a full hypertext history of the war. As if that weren't enough, you'll find postcards, posters and maps inside the box.

But all this doesn't disguise the fact that this is hardly a ground-breaking new wargame; the graphics are less than enticing, and the gameplay a little too complex for novices. But once you get into it, you'll find a passable strategy challenge, if you're willing to suspend your disbelief for a little while. It's no nowhere near as good as *Battle Isle 2*, though.

So, that's it for another *Games Scene*. Believe it or not, next month is already promising to be even more packed with top titles... see you there!

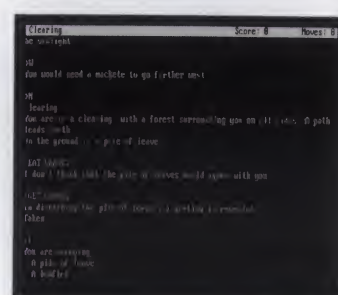
End ■



Those foolish green-haired creatures are back, in the excellent *All New World of Lemmings*. Guide them to the exit, avoiding the many obstacles and traps.



The *All New World of Lemmings* comes to you from Psygnosis (☎ 0151 709 5755) and costs 39.99.

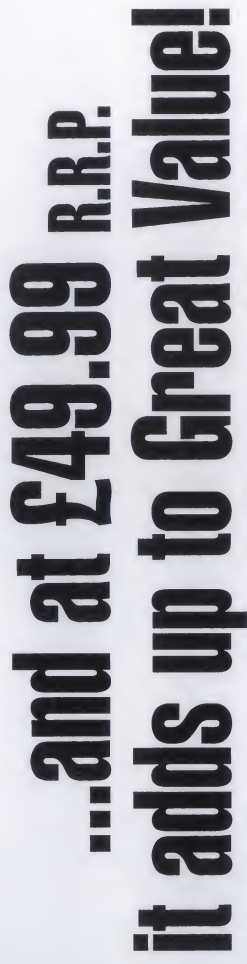


The *Zork Anthology* has an RRP of £14.99 and is published by Activision (☎ 0181 742 9400).

Very good ★★★★★

Good ★★★★★

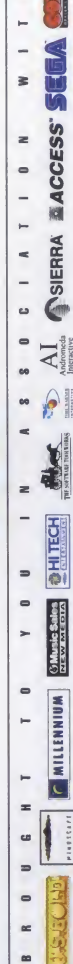
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Buyer's guide

The Buyer's Guide is updated each month, with ratings of all the discs we've reviewed. So you'll have no trouble selecting your next purchase!



Choosing a CD-ROM can be a chore. There are thousands of discs out there on the shelves. How do you know what's actually worth buying? And even if you have a vague idea of what you want, how do you know which is the best title on the subject, or where to buy it? The Buyer's Guide is here to help solve the problem.

We cover at least 350 CD-ROM titles every month, and to make life even easier, we've divided them into different sections, as listed on the right. You'll find the prices of the discs and the phone numbers of suppliers. You can also discover which multimedia features a disc offers: animation, video, sound or pictures.

The Buyer's Guide includes ratings for all the titles we've looked at so far. Three to five stars means it's worth buying; less than that, and you might be taking a risk. If there are no stars by a disc, it doesn't necessarily mean it's awful, we just haven't reviewed it yet. If a disc has been fully reviewed, we've included the issue number it appeared in, so you can find out about it in detail.

We update the Buyer's Guide each month, so that we can bring you details of the latest discs we've reviewed, so some titles are replaced by newer ones. Where there are several similar titles on the same subject, we only include the best or most recent ones.

All these listings are compiled meticulously from our own research, so every fact is checked. We've only selected titles of broad consumer interest and haven't included more specialist stuff like fonts discs, or public domain/shareware collections or clip art and other graphic media.

Happy hunting. We hope you find something you like!

Arts	120
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Continued overleaf ►

Key: D – DOS W – Windows

Arts

Arts

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
A Hard Day's Night (Issue 2)	Voyager	W		●	●	●	£41	★☆☆☆☆	Softline	081-401 1234
The classic Beatles' film on CD, with the complete script and an essay by film historian Bruce Eder.										
Animals in Motion	Online Entertainment	D	●		●	●	£35	★★★★★	Online Entertainment	081-558 6114
Edward Muybridge's seminal work on animal photography is brought to life in this important reference guide.										
Cameron's Fine Art	Cameron Enterprises	D			●	●	£35	★★★★★	Unica	061-429 0241
450 well-known works from leading artists and photographers, accompanied by numerous sound clips.										
Cinemania '94 (Issue 1)	Microsoft	W		●	●	●	£39	★★★★★	Microsoft	(0734) 270001
Reviews, video clips, hundreds of stills and a user-friendly interface make this the definitive CD-ROM movie guide.										
Cinema Volta	Voyager	W		●	●	●	£44		Softline	081-401 1234
Artist and narrator Jim Petrillo looks at the lives and works of the great electrical innovators.										
Coate's Impressionism (Issue 6)	Quanta Press	D				●	£52	★☆☆☆☆	Computer Manuals	021-706 6000
Over 600 images, with biographical data on their creators.										
The Complete Waste of Time (Issue 7)	7th Level	W	●	●	●	●	£55	★★★★★	Longman Logotron	(0223) 425558
Monty Python on CD-ROM, with new animations from Terry Gilliam, wacky games and familiar clips from the original TV shows.										
Digital Love	Software Toolworks	W	●		●		£30		Software Toolworks	(0444) 246333
A new-age aid to relaxation and meditation, featuring music from Coldcut.										
Ephemeral Films	Voyager	W		●	●		£30	★★★★★	Softline	081-401 1234
Off-beat film clips chronicle the American age of consumerism.										
Exploring Modern Art (Issue 6)	Attica Cybernetics	W	●		●	●	£59	★★★★★	Attica Cybernetics	(0865) 791346
A classy tour of the Tate Gallery - the senior curator provides fascinating (but brief) information.										
Film Index International	Chadwyck-Healey	D					£750	★★★★★	Chadwyck-Healey	(0223) 311479
Details of more than 90,000 films released up until the end of 1991, with comprehensive search facilities.										
Great Artists and Paintings (Issue 6)	Attica Cybernetics	W		●	●	●	£50	★★★★★	Attica Cybernetics	(0865) 791346
Photographs and video clips from the National Gallery in an exploration of the life and works of 58 famous artists.										
I Photograph to Remember	Voyager	W			●	●	£41	★★★★★	Softline	081-401 1234
A multimedia document by photographer Pedro Meyer on his parents' struggles to overcome cancer.										
Impressionism and its Sources	EBook Inc	W			●	●	£46		CD-Direct	(0703) 455115
1,000 images and thorough search options, with music from Chopin and Fauvre.										
Investigating 20th Century Art	Attica Cybernetics	W			●	●	£149		Attica Cybernetics	(0865) 791346
Over 150 works of art from the Tate Gallery complement a commentary on modern art.										
It's a Wonderful Life	Alpha & Omega	W		●	●	●	£20	★★★★★	Unica	061-429 0241
View the entire film, or concentrate on your favourite clips.										
Jurassic Park Screen Saver	Asymetrix	W	●	●	●	●	£25		GEM	(0279) 412441
After-Dark compatible CD-ROM screen saver based on the movie.										
Macbeth (Issue 7)	Voyager	D	●		●	●	£93	★☆☆☆☆	Softline	081-401 1234
Listen to the actors of the Royal Shakespeare Company, and take part in the performance with 'Karaoke Shakespeare'.										
Matinee	Access Softek	W		●	●		£18		FOS-CD	(0296) 682233
Full-motion video screen saver, with 250 film clips to choose from.										
Mega Movie Guide (Issue 1)	Infobusiness	D/W		●	●	●	£43	★☆☆☆☆	CD-Direct	(0703) 455115
58,000 film reviews, 2 hours of film clips and advanced indexing options that can search the user's own notes.										
Microsoft Art Gallery (Issue 6)	Microsoft	W/D	●		●	●	£44	★★★★★	Microsoft	(0734) 270001
A sumptuous collection of works from London's National Gallery, with vivid colour, animation and sound.										
Midnight Movie Madness (Issue 1)	Medio MultiMedia	W/D	●	●	●	●	£47	★★★★★	Computer Manuals	021-706 6000
Chat, quizzes and trivia, with a multitude of clips from cult films like <i>The Blob</i> and <i>Godzilla</i> .										
Renaissance Masters	EBook Inc	W				●	£42	★★★★★	CD-Direct	(0703) 455115
A two-disc series, with 1,300 glossed images on each title.										
Roger Ebert's Movie Guide	Quanta Press	D		●	●	●	£52	★★★★★	Optech	(0252) 714340
Hard-hitting wit and wisdom combining full-length movie reviews with star and director interviews.										
Spinal Tap	Voyager	W		●	●		£41		Softline	081-401 1234
Rob Reiner's legendary movie, with interviews and out-takes.										
Women in Motion	Online Entertainment	D	●			●	£35	★★★★★	Online Entertainment	081-558 6114
More of Muybridge's experiments into the representation of moving images.										
Woodstock (Issue 6)	Time Warner	W	●	●	●	●	£30	★★★★★	Time Warner	(0604) 602800
An in-depth look at the ultimate flower power festival, including excerpts from Michael Wadleigh's film.										



▲ Coate's Impressionism



▲ Exploring Modern Art



▲ Great Artists and Paintings



▲ I Photograph...



▲ Microsoft Art Gallery



▲ Woodstock

2

In the fab Feb issue:
PlayStation Ridge
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the **Saturn**, 3DO
Samurai Shodown, Dark Forces
for the **PC**. Plus,
Nintendo's Virtual
Boy, Saturn vs
PlayStation verdict, and
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Ultimate

Future Games

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Key: D – DOS W – Windows

Children's Children's

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
A Silly Noisy House	Voyager	W	●		●		£57	★★★★★	Softline	081-401 1234
Children move from room to room, clicking on objects to uncover animations, songs and sound effects.										
Adventures in Fairyland	Scops Software	W	●		●	●	£40	★★★★★	Scops Software	(0252) 722223
Educational interactive stories for 4 to 8 year olds that feature a 'colouring' option on every screen.										
Amanda Stories	Voyager	W	●		●		£57	★★★★★	Softline	081-401 1234
Storytelling and interactivity for children, from Amanda Goodenough.										
Best Neighbourhood Ever (Issue 4)	Activision	W	●		●	●	£30	★★★☆☆	Activision	081-742 9400
A series of educational games and cartoon entertainments based on the characters of Richard Scarry.										
Cuckoo Zoo	EA * Kids	W	●		●	●	£40		Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
Ping and Kooky take children aged 3-6 on a train ride of educational games and activities.										
Dandy Dinosaurs	Multicom	W	●	●	●	●	£41	★★★★★	Kamco	(0895) 271919
Video demonstrations of craft activities accompany dinosaur-related games and a story book.										
Discs Books	Discis	W			●	●	£35	★★★★★	FOS-CD	(0296) 682233
From Beatrix Potter to Robert Munsch for 4 year olds and up – a series of 10 discs.										
Dr T's Sing-A-Long Kids' Classics	Dr T's Music Software	W	●		●		£40	★★★★★	Beat Mark	061-877 4806
Animated karaoke for children.										
Eagle Eye Mysteries	EA * Kids	D	●		●		£40	★★★★★	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
There are 2 discs in this series of educational detective stories for children, each with around 50 mysteries.										
Fatty Bear's Birthday Surprise	Humongous	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★★	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
Colourfully-animated children's adventure designed to enhance problem-solving skills.										
Harry and the Haunted House (Issue 8)	Broderbund	W	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
Another delightful Living Book, mixing fun with education. Also available: <i>Grandma and Me</i> and <i>Ruff's Bone</i> .										
Interactive Storytime	Software Toolworks	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★★	Software Toolworks	(0444) 246333
Three discs make up this collection of interactive stories for children.										
Kid Works 2	Davidson	W	●		●		£40	★★★★★	ABLAC	(0626) 332233
Creativity kit for children of all ages that writes, paints and talks.										
Kingfisher Children's Micropedia (Issue 7)	ESM	W	●		●	●	£90	★★★★☆	ESM	(0223) 65445
With 1,300 entries and 1,600 pictures, this mini encyclopedia is ideal for children from 8-12 years old.										
Legends of Oz	Multicom	W	●	●	●		£41		Kamco	(0865) 271919
Stories, games and clips from the classic movie.										
Little Monster at School (Issue 6)	Broderbund	W	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
An endearing learn through play story for children. Also available: <i>Arthur's Teacher Trouble</i> .										
Magic Theatre (Issue 7)	Knowledge Adventure	W	●		●	●	£51	★★★☆☆	Guildsoft	(0752) 606200
The chance for children to become the new Walt Disney, creating, narrating and animating their own computer movies.										
Math Blaster: In Search of Spot	Davidson	W	●		●		£40	★★★★★	ABLAC	(0626) 332233
Encourages children 6-12 to improve maths skills through 4 space adventure activities.										
Mixed Up Mother Goose	Sierra On-Line	D	●		●		£40	★★★★★	Sierra On-Line	(0734) 303322
Nursery rhymes come to life in this graphical adventure for youngsters.										
My First Incredible Dictionary (Issue 6)	Dorling Kindersley	W	●		●	●	£49	★★★★☆	Dorling Kindersley	071 836 5411
The dictionary with a difference, including 3,000 sound effects and 850 animations.										
PAWS (Issue 8)	Voyager	W	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Softline	081-401 1234
A delightful 'dog simulator' with wonderful animation and some barking mad adventures. Essential for all cuddly canine lovers.										
Putt-Putt's Fun Pack (Issue 3)	Humongus	D	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
Exuberant edutainment. Also available: <i>Putt-Putt Goes to the Moon</i> and <i>Putt-Putt Joins the Parade</i> .										
Richard Scarry's Busytown (Issue 1)	Paramount/QUE	W	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Computer Manuals	021-706 6000
Colourful and explorable interactive environment for children.										
Rodney's Wonder Window	Voyager	W	●		●		£41	★★★★★	Softline	081-401 1234
Children can play with art and sound in the wacky universe of Rodney Greenblat.										
Scavenger Hunt: Africa	Davidson	W	●		●	●	£40	★★★★★	ABLAC	(0626) 332233
Animal discovery program with hand-painted scenes that create a different learning adventure each time.										
Scooter's Magic Castle	EA * Kids	W	●		●	●	£40	★★★★★	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
25 learning games and activities for children of 5-8.										
Sitting on the Farm	Sanctuary Woods	W	●		●	●	£40	★★★★★	TAG	(0474) 357350
A musical story in French and English.										
The Sleeping Beauty (Issue 6)	EBook	D	●		●	●	£29	★★★☆☆	Unica	061 429 0241
CD-ROM version of the classic children's fairytale.										



▲ Harry's Haunted House



▲ Kingfisher Micropedia



▲ Little Monster at School



▲ Magic Theatre



▲ My First Dictionary



▲ PAWS

Key: D – DOS W – Windows

Children's

Children's

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
Sound It Out Land	Davidson	D/W	●		●		£35	★★★★★	ABLAC	(0626) 332233
Sing-along phonics and early reading skills adventure with challenging games.										
The New Kid on the Block	Broderbund	W	●		●	●	£40	★★★★★	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
Animated interactive poetry for children.										
The Treasure Hunt (Issue 6)	Omnimedia	W	●		●	●	£35	★★★☆☆	Omnimedia	081 974 6766
A beautifully illustrated pirate story, with puzzles to solve along the way.										
Tuneland (Issue 2)	7th Level	W	●		●		£45	★★★★☆	Longman Logotron	(0223) 425558
Some 43 children's songs accompany the brilliant cartoon action of this great kids title.										
Wiggins in Storyland (Issue 4)	Media Vision	D	●		●	●	£30	★★★★☆	Ridgeway	(0844)342411
A colourful and effective story-writing package for youngsters.										
Willy Wabbit's Magical Books (Issue 4)	SEC	W	●		●	●	£39	★★★☆☆	CD-Direct	(0703) 455115
A lacklustre attempt to replicate the success of the Living Books series.										
Zargon Zoo (Issue 6)	Plum Productions	W	●		●	●	£46	★★★☆☆	Romedia	(0703) 871177
Comic-style game with limited educational material.										

Education

Education

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
AutoLire (Issue 5)	Software Toolworks	D				●	£125	★★★☆☆	Collins Educational	041-306 3269
An archive of 700 articles designed to supplement French teaching at Key Stage 4.										
Berlitz Think & Talk French (Issue 5)	Hyperglot	W	●		●	●	£89	★★★★☆	Unica	061-429 0241
An 8-disc French tutor starting with the very basics. Although comprehensive, it lacks variety, and requires a lot of concentration.										
Big Green Disc (Issue 7)	MDI	W	●	●	●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Psygnosis	051-709 5755
A colourful, clear and concise look at environmental issues.										
Directions 2000	ILP	W	●	●	●	●	£130	★★★★★	Academy	(0532) 461528
A major resource for learning French. Also available: the award winning <i>En Marchal</i> for Spanish.										
Environment 2: Land and Air (Issue 7)	ILP	W	●	●	●	●	£130	★★★★☆	Academy	(0532) 461528
Cross-curricular educational package closely linked to the demands of the National Curriculum. Also available: <i>Environment 1: Water</i> .										
Exploring Earth Science (Issue 1)	Attica Cybernetics	W	●	●	●	●	£195	★★★★☆	Attica Cybernetics	(0865) 791346
A resource to support key stages 3 & 4 of the National Curriculum for Geography and Science. Also available <i>Exploring Plant Science</i> .										
Global French (Issue 5)	Mindscape	W	●		●	●	£60	★★★★☆	Software Toolworks	(0444) 246333
Good all-round French tutor for both children and adults.										
How to...Computers (Issue 5)	CRT Multimedia	W	●	●	●	●	£50	★★★★☆	CRT Multimedia	081-743 9900
The unflinchingly affable Katy Kennedy guides you through a basic tutorial in information technology.										
Japanese for Business (Issue 5)	Berlitz	W	●		●	●	£100	★★★★☆	Sierra On-Line	(0734) 303322
An excellent foundation in Japanese language and culture.										
Learn French with Asterix & Son (Issue 5)	Eurotalk	W	●		●	●	£59	★★★★☆	Eurotalk Limited	071-371 7711
The popular Belgian cartoon character Asterix teaches French. Also available: <i>Asterix & the Secret Weapon</i> .										
Learn to Speak Spanish (Issue 5)	Hyperglot	W	●	●	●		£129	★★★★☆	Guildsoft	(0752) 606200
Well-implemented video footage enhances this comprehensive language tutor.										
Learn Your PC (Issue 8)	CD-ROM Systems	W	●	●	●	●	£45	★★★☆☆	CD-ROM Systems	(0283) 52527
Covers a wide range of information about PCs in both tutorial and reference form, but lacks depth and much of the information is out of date.										
Lyric Language French (Issue 1)	Penton Overseas	W/D	●	●	●	●	£70	★★★★☆	Cambridge CD-ROM	(0449) 774658
French tutorial for children with live action video, graphics, music, word games and photographic images.										
Maths Workshop (GCSE)	TopClass Technology	D					£125	★★★★★	TopClass Technology	(0773) 820011
More than 230 modules and 700 worksheets covering the GCSE syllabus. Also available for A Level students.										
Memphis Math (Issue 8)	Novell/WordPerfect	W	●		●	●	£Call	★★★☆☆	Novell/WordPerfect	(0932) 850505
Join Dr T C King in his search for the sacred scarab of ancient Egypt, answering questions about fractions and decimals along the way.										
Ruf Mal An Vols 1 & 2 (Issue 5)	Libra Multimedia	W			●		£99	★★★★☆	Libra Multimedia	(0753) 864547
Exercises based on telephone conversations to improve your German. Also available: <i>¿Dígame?</i> for your Spanish.										
SuperCoach Rugby Union (Issue 8)	Supercoach	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	SuperCoach	(0121) 585 1301
Linked to the National Curriculum, this game teaches the rules and techniques of rugby union through multiple choice questions and animation.										
Telephone Talk Vols 1 & 2	Libra Multimedia	W			●		£99	★★★★★	Libra Multimedia	(0753) 864547
Improve your English language skills for use on the phone. Also available: <i>Small Talk</i> , a 3-volume companion set.										
The Chemistry Set	New Media	W		●	●	●	£99	★★★★★	New Media	071-482 4957
A chemistry laboratory on a disc which includes over 350 experimentation video sequences - for school and the home. Also available: <i>World of Number</i> at £79.										



▲ The Treasure Hunt



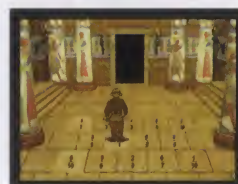
▲ Wiggins in Storyland



▲ The Big Green Disc



▲ Land and Air



▲ Memphis Maths



▲ SuperCoach Rugby

Key: D – DOS W – Windows

Games

Games

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
The 7th Guest (Issue 2)	Virgin	D	●	●	●		£50	★★★★☆	Virgin	081-960 2255
Seminal double-CD puzzle game featuring sumptuously pre-rendered 3D graphics.										
Advantage Tennis	Infogrames	D	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	Infogrames	071-738 8199
Fast and enjoyable tennis game.										
Aegis (Issue 5)	Time Warner	D	●	●	●		£50	★★★★☆	Time Warner	(0604) 790785
Superb Naval strategy game; extremely detailed but still highly playable.										
Alone in the Dark 2 (Issue 8)	Infogrames	D	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	Infogrames	071-738 8199
Excellent cinematic action-adventure game. Also available: <i>Alone in the Dark</i> .										
Battle Isle 2 (Issue 2)	Blue Byte	D	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	Kompart	(0438) 840004
A supreme wargame, with a host of multimedia enhancements.										
Battles of Time	UbiSoft	D	●		●		£30	★★★★☆	UbiSoft	081-343 9055
Four good games – <i>Perfect General</i> , <i>Battle Isle</i> , <i>Mega-Lo-Mania</i> and <i>First Samurai</i> – make up this value-for-money compilation.										
Beneath a Steel Sky (Issue 5)	Virgin	D	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Virgin	081-960 2255
Excellent graphics from top comic artist Dave Gibbons make for a highly enjoyable science fiction adventure game.										
Betrayal at Krondor (Issue 7)	Sierra On-Line	D	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	Sierra On-Line	(0734) 303322
A large and absorbing fantasy adventure game.										
Buzz Aldrin's Race Into Space (Issue 2)	Interplay	D	●	●	●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Interplay	(0235) 821666
A multimedia-enhanced strategy game – race to be the first world power to control space.										
Castles 2 (Issue 2)	Interplay	D	●	●	●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Interplay	(0235) 821666
Besiege and conquer your many enemies in this game of medieval strategy.										
Central Intelligence (Issue 5)	Ocean	D	●	●	●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Ocean	061-834 0650
Taxingly convoluted strategy game set on a politically volatile Central American Island.										
Chessmaster 4000 Turbo (Issue 6)	Software Toolworks	W	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	Software Toolworks	(0444) 246333
Superb graphics and a huge range of options for customisation ensure that this game is a winner.										
Conspiracy	Virgin	D			●		£50	★★★★☆	Virgin	081-960 2255
Investigate KGB corruption in this suspenseful adventure featuring a digitised Donald Sutherland.										
Critical Path	Media Vision	W	●	●	●	●	£50	★★★★☆	GEM	(0279) 442842
Direct real-life actors in this action-orientated movie game.										
Cruise for a Corpse	Delphine	D	●		●		£15	★★★★☆	Kixx XL	021-606 1800
A classic graphic adventure casting you as a shipboard sleuth.										
Dark Legions (Issue 6)	US Gold	D	●		●	●	£36	★★★★☆	U S Gold	021 625 3366
Game combining action and strategy that pitches two armies of mythical creatures against each other. Play the computer or a friend.										
Darkseed	Cyberdreams	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Cyberdreams	071-328 3267
Moody and atmospheric adventure game with art from HR Giger.										
Day of the Tentacle (Issue 1)	LucasArts	D	●		●	●	£33	★★★★☆	US Gold	021-606 1800
A cartoon adventure into the bizarre that has proved hugely popular with users everywhere.										
Desert Strike (Issue 8)	Gremlin	D	●		●		£35	★★★★☆	Gremlin	(0742) 753423
Previously found on the Sega Mega Drive, the game now has one extra level, combining strategy and action with agility.										
DreamWeb (Issue 8)	Empire Software	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Empire Software	081-343 9143
'Cyberpunk' sci-fi adventure game.										
Dragonsphere (Issue 2)	Microprose	D	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Microprose	(454) 326532
A deep and involving point-and-click adventure game with fully-digitised speech.										
Dune (Issue 2)	Virgin	D	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Virgin	081-960 2255
Take on the role of Paul Atreides in this strategic evocation of Frank Herbert's <i>Dune</i> .										
Ecstatica	Psygnosis	D	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Psygnosis	051-709 5755
Set in a medieval village where nightmarish events have taken place, this action game combines brilliant graphics with a high level of playability. Warning: 18s only.										
The Even More Incredible Machine (Issue 7)	Sierra OnLine	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Sierra OnLine	0734 303322
170 problems to solve, using balloons, ropes, pulleys...you name it. For inventors everywhere!										
Eye of the Beholder Trilogy	SSI	D	●		●		£50	★★★★☆	US Gold	021-606 1800
Three enjoyable adventure games on one disc. The first game is also available on the budget Kixx XL label for £15.										
The F15 Strike Eagle III	Microprose	D	●		●	●	£49	★★★★☆	Microprose	(0666) 504 326
The popular combat flight simulator, with an enjoyable two-player option.										
FIFA International Soccer (Issue 7)	Electronic Arts	D	●	●	●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
Football game with commentary from none other than Tony Gubba.										



▲ Alone in the Dark 2



▲ Chessmaster 4000



▲ Desert Strike



▲ DreamWeb




▲ Ecstatica



▲ FIFA Soccer

Glug!



It's easy to get lost in the ocean of CD-ROM gaming, so let PC Gamer be your lighthouse. Every month we bring you the finest news, reviews, tips and features money can buy, along with the best cover-mounted CD-ROM disc in the business – CD Gamer. Packed with exclusive playable demos of the hottest new releases, the cream of the latest shareware and bucketloads of indispensable add-ons, it's the one CD-ROM your PC simply can't do without.

In the February issue, we explore the secrets of Bullfrog's upcoming new masterwork Creation, review every new CD game under the sun, group test the latest triple and quad speed drives and give you the chance to win one of your own. And on CD Gamer you'll find fully playable demos of Flight Of The Amazon Queen, Holiday Lemmings '94, Virtuoso, Dominus, Delta V and much, much more. Can you and your PC live without it? Frankly, we think not.

PC GAMER

No-one goes deeper

Key: D – DOS W – Windows

Games

Games

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
Gabriel Knight (Issue 2)	Sierra On-Line	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Sierra On-Line	(0734) 303322
	Stylish and occasionally horrific adventure game.									
Gateway II: Homeworld	Accolade	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Accolade	081-832 6633
	A science-fiction text-based adventure.									
Goblins 3	Sierra On-Line	D	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	Sierra On-Line	(0734) 303322
	Entertaining adventure-cum-puzzle game. Also available: <i>Gobliins</i> and <i>Gobliins 2</i> .									
Great Naval Battles	Strategic Simulations	D	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	US Gold	021-606 1800
	Command the British or German Navy in this exhaustively thorough combat simulator.									
Harpoon (Issue 5)	Digital Integration	D	●		●		£18	★★★★☆	Digital Integration	(0276) 684959
	Somewhat dated but still an excruciatingly accurate naval combat simulator.									
Hell Cab	Warner New Media	W	●		●	●	£75	★★★★☆	Time Warner	(0604) 602800
	Time-travelling adventure game with startlingly detailed graphics.									
The Horde (Issue 3)	Crystal Dynamics	D	●	●	●	●	£45	★★★★☆	US Gold	021-606 1800
	A surprisingly successful mixture of strategy game and arcade hack-'em-up.									
Inca	Sierra On-Line	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Sierra On-Line	(0734) 303322
	One of the earliest 'interactive movies'; still impressive. The sequel builds on the original's strengths, with much more involving gameplay.									
Indiana Jones (Issue 3)	LucasArts	D	●		●	●	£33	★★★★☆	US Gold	021-606 1800
	Search for the lost city of Atlantis in this fully-voiced adventure game.									
Inferno (Issue 8)	DID	D	●		●	●	£Call	★★★★☆	DID/Ocean	(0161) 832 6633
	3D space game with over 700 missions and stunning graphics, but flawed in some areas.									
International Tennis Open	Philips	D	●	●	●	●	£35	★★★★☆	CD Revolution	(0734) 303322
	An easy to play and very well produced tennis game.									
Interplay 10 Year Anthology (Issue 2)	Interplay	D	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Interplay	(0235) 821666
	10 classic games, one from each of Interplay's years as a successful publisher of PC games.									
Iron Helix	Spectrum Holobyte	W	●	●	●	●	£34	★★★★☆	SoftLine	081-401 1234
	Futuristic cinema-style adventure game.									
Journeyman Project (Issue 1)	Presto Studios	W	●	●	●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Gametek	(0753) 553445
	Impressive but slow-moving time-travelling multimedia adventure game.									
Jump Raven (Issue 2)	Paramount Interactive	D	●		●		£79	★★★★☆	Computer Manuals	021-706 1188
	An action-packed shoot-'em-up set on the mean streets of the future.									
Jurassic Park	Ocean	D	●		●		£45	★★★★☆	Ocean	061-832 6633
	Dinosaur-bashing fun in this atmospheric movie spin-off.									
Jutland	Mirage	D	●		●		£60	★★★★☆	Mirage	(0262) 299909
	Superbly presented World War I naval battle simulator.									
King's Quest Collector's Edition (Issue 5)	Sierra On-Line	D/W	●		●		£45	★★★★☆	Sierra On-Line	(0734) 303322
	A luxury compilation of the popular series of graphical role-playing games. <i>King's Quest V</i> and <i>King's Quest VI</i> are also available separately.									
Labyrinth of Time (Issue 2)	Electronic Arts	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
	Overcome the megalomaniacal King Midas, solving puzzles across time and space.									
Lands of Lore (Issue 2)	Virgin	D	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Virgin	081-960 2255
	The voice of Patrick Stewart, along with other less notable actors, enlivens this enjoyable adventure.									
Lawnmower Man (Issue 2)	Sales Curve	D	●	●	●		£45	★★★★☆	The Sales Curve	071-585 3308
	A graphically impressive but ultimately disappointing game based on the lacklustre movie.									
The Legend of Kyrandia (Issue 3)	Virgin	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Virgin	081-960 2255
	Colourful graphics make for an impressive adventure game.									
Leisure Suit Larry VI	Sierra On-Line	D	●		●		£45	★★★★☆	Sierra On-Line	(0734) 303322
	Hopefully the last of these dismal games. But – hey – some people like 'em. The first four games are also available on a one disc compilation.									
Lemmings Double Pack	Psygnosis	D	●		●		£50	★★★★☆	Psygnosis	051-709 5755
	The original <i>Lemmings</i> plus <i>Oh No! Not More Lemmings</i> ; over 200 levels of puzzling action.									
Lilil Divil (Issue 4)	Gremlin	D	●		●		£35	★★★★☆	Gremlin	(0742) 753423
	Well-animated puzzle-solving cartoon antics.									
Little Big Adventure (Issue 8)	Electronic Arts	D	●		●		£50	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
	Excellent action/adventure game with a huge playing area.									
Loom	LucasArts	D	●		●		£35	★★★★☆	US Gold	021-606 1800
	Fantasy point-and-click adventure game with atmospheric speech and graphics.									
Lord of the Rings	Interplay	D	●		●	●	£39	★★★★☆	Interplay	(0235) 821666
	An original and atmospheric soundtrack accompanies Frodo's epic journey through this adventure game.									



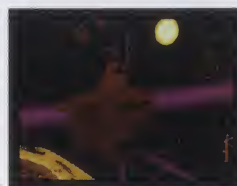
▲ King's Quest Collection



▲ Harpoon



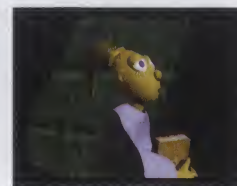
▲ Indiana Jones



▲ Inferno



▲ Legend of Kyrandia



▲ Little Big Adventure

Key: D – DOS W – Windows

Games

Games

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
Lost In Time	Sierra On-Line	D	●	●	●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Sierra On-Line	(0734) 303322
	Likeable point-and-click adventure set in France that utilises full-motion video.									
The Lost Files of Sherlock Holmes (Issue 3)	Electronic Arts	D	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
	Play the part of Holmes himself in this very enjoyable graphic adventure.									
Lost Treasures of Infocom	Infocom	D					£39	★★★★☆	Activision	081-742 9400
	Twenty vintage adventure games on one disc. Volume 2 contains another 14.									
M1 Tank Platoon	Microprose	D	●		●		£15	★★★★☆	Klxx XL	021-606 1800
	Dated but enjoyable tank combat simulator.									
Magic Carpet (Issue 8)	Bullfrog	D	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
	Take to the skies on a magic carpet, collecting spells and magical energy. Play in stereogram mode if your eyes can take it.									
Magnetic Scrolls	Virgin	D	●				£45	★★★★☆	Virgin	081-960 2255
	Three Magnetic Scrolls adventure games – <i>Fish</i> , <i>Corruption</i> and <i>The Guild of Thieves</i> – on one disc.									
Manchester United Premier League (Issue 6)	Krisalis	D	●		●	●	£30	★★★★☆	Krisalis	(0709) 372290
	All the big teams are feature in this well-implemented if rather unfriendly-looking football game.									
Megafortress Mega Pak (Issue 5)	Digital Integration	D	●		●		£18	★★★★☆	Digital Integration	(0276) 684959
	Complex and difficult air combat game that rewards perseverance.									
MegaRace (Issue 2)	Mindscape	D	●	●	●		£50	★★★★☆	Mindscape	(0444) 246333
	Amusing video footage of gameshow host 'Lance Boyle' brings this futuristic racing game to life.									
Microsoft Golf	Microsoft	W	●		●	●	£35	★★★★☆	Microsoft	(0734) 270001
	Slice and putt your way through this popular golf game.									
Millennium Auction (Issue 4)	Eidolon	D	●		●	●	£Call	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
	Exciting and intellectually stimulating game for up to four players, involving buying and selling at a futuristic gallery.									
Myst (Issue 1)	Broderbund	W	●	●	●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
	Superb 3D puzzle adventure game with luscious graphics and a good soundtrack.									
NHL Hockey '95 (Issue 6)	Electronic Arts	D	●	●	●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
	Unique TV-style presentation makes this version of the classic game more exciting than ever.									
Novastorm (Issue 8)	Psygnosis	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Psygnosis	051-709 5755
	Sleek 3D space blast-'em-up.									
Outpost (Issue 5)	Sierra On-Line	D	●		●		£45	★★★★☆	Sierra On-Line	(0734) 303322
	Gorgeous hi-res graphics spice up this absorbing space-age strategy game.									
PGA Tour 486 Golf (Issue 6)	Electronic Arts	W	●	●	●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
	Superb graphics make this golfing game hard to resist.									
Pinball Dreams Deluxe (Issue 6)	21st Century	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	21st Century	(0235) 851852
	Combining <i>Pinball Dreams 1</i> and <i>2</i> , there are 8 tables to choose from, amusing animation, an improved soundtrack and a history of the game.									
Privateer (Issue 5)	Electronic Arts	D	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
	Origin's classic but ever-so-slightly tired sci-fi action/adventure.									
Psychotron (Issue 5)	Merit	D	●	●	●		£50	★★★★☆	GEM	(0279) 442842
	Original but unfocused video-based adventure game.									
Quantum Gate	Media Vision	W	●	●	●		£50	★★★★☆	GEM	(0279) 442842
	Futuristic saga utilising actors, animations and videogame play to impressive effect.									
Quarantine (Issue 8)	Gametek	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Gametek	(0753) 553445
	Take a ride as a violent taxi-driver of the future, blasting people out of the way to reach your destination.									
Railroad Tycoon	Microprose/Action 16	D	●		●		£20	★★★★☆	Digital Integration	(0276) 684959
	The classic strategy game of railway management.									
Rebel Assault (Issue 1)	LucasArts	D	●	●	●	●	£43	★★★★☆	US Gold	021-606 1800
	Cinematic entertainment courtesy of LucasArts and their enjoyable Star Wars-based game.									
Return to Ringworld (Issue 6)	Time Warner	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Time Warner	(0604) 602800
	Adventure game involving sci-fi problem-solving, based on the writings of Larry Niven.									
Return to Zork (Issue 3)	Activision	D	●	●	●	●	£49	★★★★☆	Activision	081-742 9400
	Adventure game with smart graphics and more than one hour of lip-synched dialogue.									
Sam & Max Hit the Road (Issue 1)	LucasArts	D	●		●	●	£39	★★★★☆	US Gold	021-606 1800
	Superb, gripping, hilarious – a brilliant cartoon-style adventure.									
Secret of Monkey Island	LucasArts	D	●		●	●	£38	★★★★☆	US Gold	021-606 1800
	LucasArts' seminal graphic adventure now available for CD-ROM.									
Secret Weapons of the Luftwaffe	LucasArts	D	●		●	●	£38	★★★★☆	US Gold	021-606 1800
	A well-produced and atmospheric airborne combat simulator.									



▲ Magic Carpet



▲ Manchester United



▲ NHL Hockey



▲ Novastorm



▲ PGA Tour 486 Golf



▲ Quarantine

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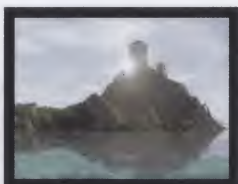
Games

Games

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
Shadow of the Comet (Issue 4)	Infogrames The stories of HP Lovecraft are brought to life in this spooky adventure game.	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Infogrames	071-738 8199
Shadowcaster (Issue 2)	Origin Excellent action-oriented adventure game, with CD-only speech and animations.	D	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
Silent Service 2	Microprose/Action 16 Battle beneath the waves in this involving but rather dated submarine game.	D	●		●		£20	★★★★☆	Digital Integration	(0276) 684959
SimCity Enhanced (Issue 2)	Interplay Solve three Victorian mysteries with the help of full-motion video clues. First in a series of three discs.	D		●	●		£50	★★★★☆	Interplay	(0235) 821666
Simon the Sorcerer (Issue 4)	Adventuresoft The voice of comedian Chris Barrie accompanies this humorous graphic adventure - great fun.	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	PDQ	021-625 3377
Soccer Kid (Issue 8)	Krisalis Software Console conversion which has lost much of its charm.	D	●		●	●	£35	★★★☆☆	Krisalis	(0708) 372280
Space Hulk (Issue 2)	Electronic Arts An excellent battle-based game from strategy experts Games Workshop.	D	●		●		£50	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
Space Quest Collection (Issue 5)	Dynamix Five humorous sci-fi adventures on one disc.	D	●		●		£45	★★★★☆	Sierra On-Line	(0734) 303322
Spirit of Excalibur	Virgin Interactive Based on the legends of King Arthur, this is a cross-genre adventure with strategic and arcade-based elements.	D			●		£35	★★★★☆	Virgin Interactive	081-960 2255
Star Control CD Compendium (Issue 4)	Accolade <i>Star Control</i> and <i>Star Control II</i> combined onto one budget-priced disc - a true bargain.	D	●		●	●	£20	★★★★☆	Accolade	081-788 0200
Star Crusader (Issue 8)	Gametek Conventional space-based 3D shoot 'em up.	D	●		●	●	£Call	★★★★☆	Gametek	(0753) 553445
Star Trek - 25th Anniversary (Issue 1)	Interplay Lead the crew of the Enterprise through puzzling adventures... now with the voices of the original cast.	D	●		●		£47	★★★★☆	Interplay	(0235) 821666
Stellar 7	Dynamix/Sierra Fast-paced 3-D shoot-'em-up with the voiceover talents of Michael Dorn.	D	●	●	●	●	£45	★★★☆☆	Sierra OnLine	(0296) 682233
Strike Commander	Electronic Arts 20 additional operations accompany this enhanced version of the benchmark combat flight simulator.	D	●		●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
Summer & Winter Challenges	Accolade Two multi-event sports games on one disc.	D	●		●		£20	★★★★☆	Accolade	081-877 0880
Supremacy	Virgin Interactive Complex and strategic space conquest game.	D			●		£35	★★★☆☆	Virgin Interactive	081-960 2255
Syndicate + (Issue 2)	Bullfrog Venomously violent and hugely addictive, this action-cum-strategy game comes highly recommended.	D	●		●		£50	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
TFX	Ocean Choose one of three experimental aircraft in this stunning air combat simulator.	D	●		●	●	£39	★★★★☆	Ocean	061-832 6633
The Adventures of Willy Beamish	Dynamix A stereo soundtrack and digitised voices for each character accompany this graphical adventure for children.	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★☆☆	Sierra On-Line	(0734) 303322
Theme Park (Issue 4)	Electronic Arts Construct and manage a thriving amusement park in this hugely entertaining business simulation.	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
Titan's Legacy (Issue 7)	Bluebyte Additional missions, forces and scenery for <i>Battle Isle 2</i> . Requires original game	D	●		●		£26	★★★★☆	Kompart	(0438) 840004
Tornado/Falcon 3.0 (Issue 7)	Digital Integration Two extremely accurate, complex but rewarding flight simulators for the price of one.	D	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	Digital Integration	(0276) 684959
Ultima I - VI (Issue 2)	Origin The first six classic games in the Ultima role-playing game series. Also available <i>Ultima VII</i> and <i>Ultima VIII</i> at £50 each.	D	●		●		£60	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
Ultima Underworld 1 & 2 (Issue 2)	Origin Both of these games broke new ground, with amazing 3-D graphics and involving plots.	D	●		●		£50	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
Ultimate Domain (Issue 7)	Mindscape Strategy game that requires you to nurture a medieval village into a well-developed fighting force.	D	●		●	●	£40	★★★★☆	Mindscape	(0444) 346333
Who Shot Johnny Rock? (Issue 7)	GEM A live-action shooting game from the makers of <i>Mad Dog Macree</i> . Also available: <i>Mad Dog 2</i> .	D	●		●		£50	★★★☆☆	GEM	(0279) 442842
Wing Commander 2 (Issue 4)	Origin Fast-moving space combat with a likeably silly storyline.	D	●		●		£40	★★★★☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
Zool 2 (Issue 5)	Gremlin Enjoyable and colourful platform rompings.	D	●		●		£35	★★★★☆	Gremlin	90742) 753423



▲ Star Crusader



▲ Titan's Legacy



▲ Theme Park



▲ Tornado/Falcon 3.0



▲ Ultimate Domain



▲ Zool 2

Key: D - DOS W - Windows

Geography

Geography

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
10 Manmade Wonders (Issue 5)	InterOptica	W	●	●	●	●	£74	★★★☆☆	Softline	081-401 1234
Great content but patchy design. Also available: <i>7 Natural Wonders</i> .										
America Adventure	Knowledge Adventure	D	●	●	●	●	£45		Guildsoft	(0752) 606200
Explore the history, geography and culture of America in this educational multimedia presentation.										
Britain at its Best (Issue 3)	Compton's New Media	D/W			●		£17	★☆☆☆☆	GEM	(0279) 442842
Robert Kane's comprehensive guide to the UK; also available for France, New York, Washington and Hong Kong.										
City 2000 London	Aditus	D	●	●	●	●	£41		Unica	061-429 0241
An adventure-style game to teach basic principles of navigation, and the geography of London.										
Discover York (Issue 4)	Ordnance Survey	W	●		●	●	£120	★★★☆☆	Ordnance Survey	(0703) 792012
An education-orientated investigation of the city, linked to Key Stages 2,3 and 4 of the National Curriculum.										
Everywhere USA Guide (Issue 3)	Deep River Publishing	W		●	●	●	£50	★★★☆☆	Optech	(0252) 714340
Two discs provide a useful and interesting guide to the sights of America.										
Exotic Japan	Voyager	W		●	●	●	£56		Softline	081-401 1234
Learn about the ancient culture of the Japanese by lesson, game or quiz.										
Global Explorer (Issue 2)	Delorme	W	●			●	£117	★★★☆☆	Logix	081-763 2888
An atlas of the world that can zoom into street maps of major cities.										
It's a Bird's Life	Sanctuary Woods	W	●		●	●	£40		Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
A colourful interactive eco-story written and narrated by Shelley Duvall.										
Last Chance to See (Issue 2)	Voyager	W	●		●	●	£49	★★★☆☆	Softline	081-401 1234
Double-disc multimedia version of the globe-trotting tome from Douglas Adams and Mark Cawardine.										
Maps 'N' Facts (Issue 2)	Broderbund	D			●	●	£40	★★★☆☆	Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
A family atlas of printable maps, charts and texts.										
Mexico (Issue 3)	Aborecence	W		●	●	●	£25	★★★☆☆	Unica	061-429 0241
A colourful but rather shallow guide to Mexico.										
Oceans Below	Amazing Media	D	●	●	●	●	£17		Digital Integration	(0276) 684959
Discover life under the waves through video, narration, pictures and text.										
Picture Atlas of the World	National Geographic	D		●	●	●	£115		FOS-CD	(0296) 682233
Audio and video clips accompany maps of the world.										
Small Blue Planet (Issue 2)	Now What Software	W	●			●	£59	★★★☆☆	Softline	081-401 1234
Maps, atlases and political analysis brought to colourful life.										
Undersea Adventure	Knowledge Adventure	D	●	●	●	●	£45		Guildsoft	(0752) 606200
A broad-based multimedia exploration of undersea life.										
Where is Carmen Sandiego?	Broderbund	W	●		●	●	£60		Electronic Arts	(0753) 549442
Multimedia clues make up an educational geography-based adventure game.										
World Atlas (Issue 2)	Software Toolworks	W		●	●	●	£60	★★★☆☆	Software Toolworks	(0444) 246333
A multimedia atlas of the world.										

History

History

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
20th Century Video Almanac (Issue 5)	Software Toolworks	D	●	●	●	●	£80	★★★☆☆	Software Toolworks	(0444) 246333
A multimedia ride through recent history.										
3D Dinosaur Adventure	Knowledge Adventure	D	●	●	●	●	£45		Guildsoft	(0752) 606200
3-D glasses give a whole new dimension to dinosaur-related facts and diversions.										
Ancient Lands (Issue 4)	Microsoft	W	●	●	●	●	£40	★★★☆☆	Microsoft	(0734) 270001
Impeccably produced and lusciously illustrated guide to ancient civilisations.										
The Anglo-Saxons (Issue 4)	Research Machines	W	●			●	£100	★★★☆☆	Research Machines	(0235) 826868
A wealth of Anglo-Saxon-related resources for use in schools, produced with the collaboration of the British Museum.										
Changing Times (Issue 1)	News Multimedia	W				●	£146	★★★☆☆	Optech	(0252) 714340
15,000 original reports and 1,000 photographs, illustrations and etchings from the archives of The Times.										
Desert Storm (Issue 5)	Warner New Media	W/D			●	●	£35	★★★☆☆	Computer Manuals	021-706 6000
Images, text and sound combine to form a comprehensive documentation of the conflict.										
Dinosaur Adventure	Knowledge Adventure	D	●	●	●	●	£45		Guildsoft	(0752) 606200
Narration, animations and photo-realistic graphics in a multimedia dinosaur-centred presentation.										
The Discoverers (Issue 5)	Knowledge Adventure	W		●	●	●	£50	★★★☆☆	Guildsoft	(0752) 606200
Solid multimedia investigation of the spirit of adventure.										



▲ 10 Manmade Wonders



▲ Discover York



▲ Last Chance to See



▲ Ancient Lands



▲ The Discoverers



▲ 20th Century Almanac

History

History

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
Exploring Ancient Architecture (Issue 4)	Medio MultiMedia	W	●		●	●	£50	★★★☆☆	GEM	(0279) 442842
	An animated tour back in time to buildings in Greece, Rome, Egypt and the Stone Age.									
First Emperor of China (Issue 4)	Voyager	W		●	●	●	£70	★★★☆☆	Softline	081-401 1234
	The history surrounding the Terracotta Army, and the circumstances of its discovery.									
Incredible Cross Sections Stowaway (Issue 6)	Dorling Kindersley	W	●		●	●	£49	★★★★☆	Dorling Kindersley	071-836 5411
	Detailed portrayal of life on board an 18th century Man o' War, incorporating an educational game.									
ITN European Video Atlas	Attica Cybernetics	W	●	●	●	●	£99		Attica Cybernetics	(0865) 791346
	Maps, statistical data and TV-style reports from ITN create a multimedia atlas of Europe.									
ITN World News '93 (Issue 5)	Media Design Interactive	W		●	●	●	£40	★★★☆☆	Psygnosis	051-709 5755
	Television news reports provide a record of the entire year. Comes bundled with ITN World News '92 for extra value.									
J.F.K. Assassination (Issue 5)	Medio Multimedia	W	●	●	●	●	£47	★★★☆☆	GEM	(0279) 442842
	An exhaustive multimedia examination of the circumstances surrounding JFK's assassination.									
Microsoft Dinosaurs	Microsoft	W	●		●	●	£45		Microsoft	(0734) 270001
	Excellent design and a huge expanse of illustration and photography give a highly impressive tour of prehistoric life.									
Normandy: The Great Crusades (Issue 5)	Discovery Channel	W	●	●	●	●	£45	★★★☆☆	Computer Manuals	021-706 6000
	Documentary of D-Day with articles, pictures and narration on almost every aspect of the landings.									
Prehistoria (Issue 7)	Grolier	W	●	●	●	●	£70	★★★★☆	Software Toolworks	(0444) 248333
	Spanning 500 million years, this CD explores background detail on some 500 animals									
Time Almanac 1993	Compact Publishing	W		●	●	●	£69		Unica Limited	061-429 0241
	A huge collection of articles from Time Magazine, with video footage from CNN. Also available in a special schools edition.									
USA Wars: Desert Storm	Compton's New Media	W	●	●	●	●	£39		GEM	(0279) 442842
	Imagery, data and reports - other discs cover the Korea, Vietnam, World War II and the American Civil War.									
World War II	Yorkshire Television/ILP	D	●	●	●	●	£130		Academy	(0532) 461528
	Thousands of words, pictures and videos bring the past to life.									
World War II Encyclopedia (Issue 5)	Attica Cybernetics	W		●	●	●	£149		Attica Cybernetics	(0865) 791346
	A wide range of primary source data, with film footage, photographs, sound recordings and documents.									

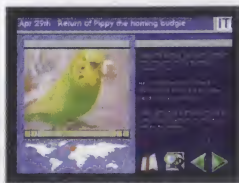
Home & Health

Home & Health

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
Bacchus & Comus (Issue 4)	Winesoft Cluxro NV	W				●	£46	★★★★☆	Unica	061-429 0241
	A guide to 1200 wines, presented with their labels and maps showing their region of origin.									
Better Homes CD Cookbook (Issue 4)	Multicom	D		●	●	●	£47	★★★★☆	Kamco	(0895) 271919
	Video clips of cooking techniques, together with recipes and nutritional information.									
Cookbook Heaven (Issue 4)	Most Significant Bits	D					£18	★★★☆☆	Unica	061-429 0241
	Over 20,000 recipes, along with a set of diet and health applications.									
Doctor's Book of Home Remedies	Compton's NewMedia	W					£40	★★★☆☆	GEM	(0279) 442842
	An easy-to-use guide to common ailments and how best to alleviate them.									
Family Doctor	CMC ReSearch	D/W				●	£35		Optech	(0252) 714340
	Over 1,000 frequently-asked medical queries answered with the aid of diagrams and colour photographs.									
Fitness Partner (Issue 4)	Computer Directions	W		●	●	●	£50	★★★☆☆	Guildsoft	(0752) 606200
	Develop your own full-motion video fitness trainer.									
Four Seasons French Cuisine (Issue 7)	Arôme Interactive	W		●	●	●	£40	★☆☆☆☆	GEM	(0279) 442842
	Seventy recipes, some of which have video clips to illustrate certain techniques.									
Kathy Smith's Fat Burning	Xiphias	W		●	●	●	£38		CD-Direct	(0703) 455115
	A complete 10-week guide to fitness, based on Kathy Smith's books, audio and video tapes.									
LiLifesaver (Issue 4)	Media Design	W		●	●	●	£29	★★★☆☆	Psygnosis	051-709 5755
	A complete First Aid course with video clips, narration and photographs.									
Lifestyles of the Rich and Famous (Issue 4)	Compton's NewMedia	W		●	●	●	£40	★★★☆☆	GEM	(0279) 442842
	Has-been celebrities lead you through their favourite recipes. Totally bizarre.									
Mayo Family Health Book	Sony	D	●	●	●	●	£62		FOS-CD	(0629) 682233
	Text, illustrations, animation, video and audio present information on 1,000 diseases and maladies.									
New Basics Cook Book	Xiphias	D		●	●	●	£58		Optech	(0252) 714340
	1,800 recipes with helpful guidelines, voice-over cooking hints and electronic shopping lists.									
Wines of the World (Issue 4)	Multicom	W		●	●	●	£46	★★★☆☆	Kamco	(0895) 271919
	All aspects of wine production and appreciation, including a wine database of over 2000 wines.									



▲ Stowaway



▲ ITN World News '93



▲ Normandy



▲ Prehistoria



▲ Better Homes Cookbook



▲ Fitness Partner

FUTURE

MUSIC

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Key: D – DOS W – Windows

Literature

Literature

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
Barron's Book Notes	World Library	D/W					£70		Cambridge CD-ROM	(0449) 774658
Commentaries and criticisms on great works of literature.										
Classic Library (Issue 3)	Andromeda Interactive	W	●			●	£50	★★★☆☆	Andromeda Interactive	(0235) 529595
Full-text versions of over 2,000 works of world literature. A special price of £40 applies to schools.										
Creative Writer	Microsoft	W/D	●		●		£48		Microsoft	(0734) 270001
A collection of tools and resources for writers.										
Desktop Bookshop	Unica	D					£25		Unica	061-429 0241
The world's most famous books – Buddha, Byron, Shakespeare, Twain and more.										
Great Mystery Classics	World Library	D/W			●	●	£25		Cambridge CD-ROM	(0449) 774658
171 full-text stories of intrigue and mystery.										
Jane Austen	Nimbus/HarperCollins	D				●	£25	★★★☆☆	Nimbus	(0633) 867777
The complete novels, with introductory essays and powerful search facilities.										
King James Bible	Compton's New Media	D				●	£49		GEM	(0279) 442842
The full text of the King James version of the Bible, with advanced search and cross-referencing tools.										
Lewis Carroll (Issue 3)	Nimbus/HarperCollins	D			●	●	£25	★★★☆☆	Nimbus	(0633) 867777
The writings of Charles Dodgson with numerous illustrations, and readings by Sir John Gielgud.										
Library of the Future	World Library	W/D					£293		Cambridge CD-ROM	(0449) 774658
All entries are complete, unabridged and accessible in seconds.										
The Brontë Sisters	Nimbus/HarperCollins	D				●	£25	★★★☆☆	Nimbus	(0633) 867777
The complete works of all three sisters, together with illustrations and biographical information.										
The Illustrated Holy Bible	Animated Pixels	D				●	£25		Animated Pixels	(0705) 291866
The complete works of all three sisters, together with illustrations and biographical information.										
The Madness of Roland	Hyperbole Studios	W/M	●	●	●	●	£50	★★★☆☆	Softline	081-401 1234
A third-rate swords and sorcery tale, written by, produced and starring Greg Roach. Who?										

Miscellaneous

Miscellaneous

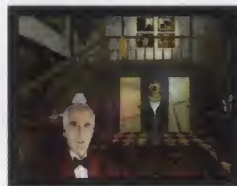
Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
AA Hotels & Restaurants 1993	Nimbus	D					£35		Nimbus	(0633) 687777
Graded descriptions of over 4,400 establishments in Britain & Ireland.										
Behind the Scenes: The Zoo (Issue 7)	MDI	W		●	●	●	£40	★★★☆☆	Psygnosis	081-710 948
Features a timeline of the day's activities at Marwell Zoo. Presentation is weak at times.										
Forever Growing Garden	Media Vision	W	●		●	●	£45		GEM	(0279) 442842
Cutesy grow-your own entertainment with animated fantasy plants in a myriad of colours.										
Funny	Warner New Media	M		●	●	●	£35		Computer Manuals	021-706 6000
Indexed QuickTime movies of 120 jokes, told by ordinary people.										
Ghosts (Issue 8)	Psygnosis	W		●	●	●	£40	★★★☆☆	Psygnosis	051-709 5755
Enter Hobbs Manor with Dr Marcus Grimalkin (alias Christopher Lee) and discover weird and wonderful tales of the supernatural. Not for the faint-hearted.										
How God Makes God	Genome	M	●		●	●	£37		Genome	(0628) 23090
A unique and absorbing exploration of wealth creation, in old-fashioned black and white.										
How Multimedia Computers Work (Issue 5)	Software Toolworks	W	●	●	●	●	£40	★★★☆☆	Software Toolworks	(0444) 246333
A strange mixture of the obvious and baffling, that attempts to lay bare the internal operation of your PC.										
In The Company of Whales (Issue 5)	Discovery Channel	W		●	●	●	£45	★★★☆☆	Computer Manuals	021-706 6000
Patrick Stewart narrates this interesting marine documentary.										
It's All Relative	Time Warner Interactive	W		●	●		£55		Time Warner	(0604) 602800
American stand-up comedians tell jokes about families.										
Klik & Play (Issue 8)	Europress Software	W	●		●	●	£40	★★★☆☆	Express Software	(01628) 859333
Create your own games, using the graphics and sound libraries provided, or import your own material.										
Maniac Sports (Issue 6)	Software Toolworks	W	●	●	●	●	£40	★★★☆☆	Software Toolworks	(0444) 246333
Interactive documentary exploring the equipment, history, risks and training involved in nine different sports.										
Murmurs of Earth (Issue 3)	Warner New Media	D			●	●	£39	★★★☆☆	Time Warner	(0604) 602800
The Voyager interstellar record – the sounds and images of our planet – on CD-ROM.										
Newsweek Interactive (Issue 2)	Software Toolworks	D	●	●	●	●	£40	★★★☆☆	Software Toolworks	(0444) 246333
Published quarterly, Newweek Interactive features original audio, video, animations, narration and photo-essays.										
The Story of the World Cup (Issue 4)	Attica Cybernetics	W		●	●	●	£45	★★★☆☆	Attica Cybernetics	(0865) 791346
Video clips of great moments from football history enliven this interesting, but less-than-perfect disc.										



▲ Macbeth



▲ Complete Waste of Time



▲ Ghosts



▲ Klik & Play



▲ Maniac Sports



▲ The Animals

Miscellaneous

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
The Animals (Issue 7)	Software Toolworks	D/W		●	●	●	£17	★★★☆☆	Digital Integration	(0276) 684959
Details of 203 different species, with five or six pictures per animal - however the quality of the video is poor.										
The Garden of Uneathly Delights	Nimbus/IBM/Unica	W	●	●	●	●	£30		Unica	061-429 0241
A multimedia presentation of William Latham's genre-busting concept of 'Evolutionism'.										
UFO (Issue 3)	Software Marketing	W	●	●	●	●	£53	★★★☆☆	Guildsoft	(0752) 606200
Close Encounters of the multimedia kind with this CD report into extra-terrestrial phenomena.										
Virtual Escape (Issue 6)	Microforum	W	●	●	●		£45	★★★☆☆	CD Concepts	081-993 7117
Features include virtual visits to animated locations, a stress management and exercise section and headache-inducing fractal screen - but it doesn't quite work.										
Vistapro	Virtual Reality Labs	D	●		●	●	£117		Meridian	081-543 3500
A superb package enabling you to create landscapes of unprecedented graphical quality.										
Walkthroughs & Flybys	Waite Group	D	●	●	●	●	£30		Pitman Publishing	071-379 3500
A large collection of 3-D animations with sound tracks. Discover the tricks and techniques used to create them, in the accompanying book.										

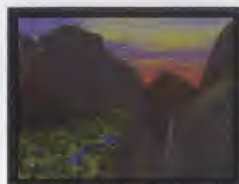
Music

Music

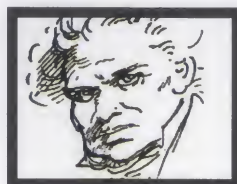
Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
Intro to Classical Music (Issue 1)	Attica Cybernetics	W			●	●	£50	★★★☆☆	Attica Cybernetics	(0865) 791346
An interactive guide to the life and works of 40 great Western Classical composers.										
Beethoven's 5th (Issue 1)	Interactive Publishing	W		●	●	●	£50	★★★★☆	GEM	(0279) 442842
A multimedia exploration of Beethoven's 5th Symphony.										
Beethoven and Beyond (Issue 8)	Voyager	W			●	●	£24	★★★★☆	Softline	081-401 1234
Contains essays on Beethoven and his contemporaries, 72 minutes of high quality sound and a catalogue.										
Don't Play Track One (Issue 6)	Day at the Beach	W	●	●	●	●	£24	★★★★☆	Multimedia Experience	(0706) 210022
A manic selection of musical numbers accompanied by bizarre visuals. If you want background music only, slam it on your CD player. Cool!										
Jazz - A Multimedia History (Issue 2)	Compton's New Media	D/W		●	●	●	£50	★★★☆☆	GEM	(0279) 442842
A multimedia guide to Jazz from 1923-1991, containing photos, audio clips and vintage film footage.										
Jump (Issue 2)	ION	W	●	●	●	●	£50	★★★☆☆	BMG	071-973 0011
Take a trip into the weird, weird world of David Bowie.										
Microsoft Musical Instruments (Issue 1)	Microsoft	W	●		●	●	£48		Microsoft	(0734) 270001
An impressively put-together multimedia guide to over 200 musical instruments.										
Mozart: The Dissonant Quartet	Microsoft/Voyager	W			●		£39		Microsoft	(0734) 270001
Focussing on the C Major String Quartet, 'The Dissonant', this is a multimedia examination of Mozart's music.										
Mozart: Music, Life and Times	EBook Inc	W			●	●	£19		Cambridge CD-ROM	(0449) 774658
An interactive examination of the life and works of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart.										
Prince Interactive (Issue 4)	The Graphix Zone	W	●	●	●	●	£50	★★★★☆	GEM	(0279) 442842
A richly presented exploration of the works and lifestyle of the rock star Prince.										
Residents' Freakshow (Issue 2)	Voyager	W	●		●	●	£59	★★★★☆	Softline	081-401 1234
Peek at fetishes, fantasies, rituals and tragic secrets, with the music of The Residents.										
Rock 'N' Roll Years: The Fifties (Issue 2)	Supervision	W			●		£25		Supervision	071-702 9391
A variety of material from the fifties, including music, TV interviews, and news stories on the growth of teen culture.										
Rock Rap 'N' Roll	Paramount/QUE	W			●		£50		Computer Manuals	021-706 6000
Play and sing along to musical backing tracks in a variety of styles.										
Schubert: The Trout Quintet	Voyager Press	W		●	●	●	£44	★★★☆☆	Microsoft	(0734) 270001
Musical examples, commentary and a game.										
Stravinsky: The Rite of Spring (Issue 1)	Voyager	W	●		●	●	£37	★★★★☆	Microsoft	(0734) 270001
A broad and inventive insight into <i>The Rite of Spring</i> and its composer.										
Tchaikovsky's 1812 (Issue 8)	Mindscape	W	●	●	●	●	£34	★★★★☆	Mindscape	(0444) 246333
An interactive guide to Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, with 15 minutes of audio track that you can play on your CD player.										
The Grammy Awards	Compton's New Media	D			●	●	£39		GEM	(0279) 442842
The winners and nominees of the past 34 years, with hundreds of pictures and more than one hour of audio.										
Viking Opera Guide (Issue 1)	Attica Cybernetics	W		●	●	●	£99	★★★☆☆	Attica Cybernetics	(0865) 791346
A complete Opera reference guide including over three hours of music and more than 300 pictures.										
Vivaldi: The Four Seasons	EBook Inc	W			●	●	£19		Active Distribution	081-838 1280
An interactive exploration of the life and work of Vivaldi, focussing on his most celebrated composition.										
Xplora 1 (Issue 1)	RealWorld	W	●	●	●	●	£34	★★★★☆	Softline	081-401 1234
Journey through the weird and wonderful world of Peter Gabriel - the man, the music and the videos.										



▲ Garden of Delights



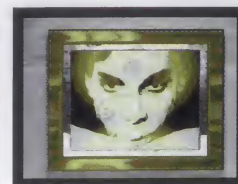
▲ Vistapro



▲ Beethoven and Beyond



▲ Jump



▲ Prince Interactive



▲ Tchaikovsky's 1812

Key: D – DOS W – Windows

Reference

Reference

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
Allegro PC Library (Issue 3)	Allegro New Media A veritable warehouse of PC-related information. Also available: <i>Allegro Business Library</i> .	W		●		●	£70	★★★☆☆	Unica	061-429 0241
Attica Writer's Bookshelf	Attica Cybernetics Cut and paste information from numerous reference works, including <i>The Bible</i> , a dictionary and a thesaurus.	W					£50		Attica Cybernetics	(0865) 791346
Book Bank CD-ROM	J Whitaker & Sons 700,000 records of English language books published in the UK, and 70 countries worldwide.	D					£1,220		J Whitaker & Sons	071-836 8911
CD-ROM Directory on Disc 1993	TFPL The complete reference tool for CD-ROM users and industry professionals alike.	D					£135		TFPL Publishing	071-251 5522
Chambers English Dictionary (Issue 3)	Chambers Harrap Comprehensive search facilities enhance this classic work of reference.	D					£55	★★★☆☆	Chambers Harrap	031-557 4571
Compton's Family Encyclopedia	Compton's New Media The complete <i>Britannica Family Encyclopedia</i> on CD-ROM.	D			●	●	£95		GEM	(0279) 442842
Compton's Interactive (Issue 8)	Compton's New Media The 1995 version contains 100 video clips, 15 hours of sound; an atlas, dictionary, and 35,000 articles, with comprehensive cross-referencing.	D/W	●	●	●	●	£79	★★★☆☆	GEM	(0279) 442842
Concise Oxford English Dictionary	OUP Also available: <i>Oxford Thesaurus on Compact Disc</i> , and <i>Oxford Dictionary of Quotations</i> .	W					£50		OUP	(0865) 267979
Crossword Cracker	Wayzata Technology Database of over 170,000 words specifically designed for crossword puzzles.	D					£25		Nimbus	(0633) 867777
Daily Telegraph 1993	Attica Cybernetics News items and feature articles for the whole of 1993. Also available for 1992.	W				●	£125		Attica Cybernetics	(0865) 791346
Ecctis 2000	Ecctis 2000 A national database of courses at over 700 universities and colleges within the UK.	D					£180		Ecctis 2000	(0242) 518724
Encarta MultiMedia Encyclopedia (Issue 8)	Microsoft Updated for 1995, its better than ever, containing 26,000 articles, an atlas, dictionary and thesaurus. An invaluable reference tool.	W	●	●	●	●	£85	★★★★☆	Microsoft	(0734) 270001
Financial Times	Chadwyck-Healey Archived final editions of the influential newspaper.	W/D					£900		Chadwyck-Healey	(0223) 311479
Guinness Disc of Records (1994) (Issue 8)	Software Toolworks There are more than 3,800 records, accompanied by pictures and videos with synchronised sound. Full of trivia!	D/W		●	●	●	£60	★★★★☆	Software Toolworks	(0444) 246333
Encyclopedia of Science Fiction	Nimbus/Little Brown Images, sound and powerful text searches accompany this comprehensive guide.	D			●	●	£40		Nimbus	(0633) 867 777
How Computers Work	Xiphias Video footage explains the mysteries of the computer. Also available: <i>How Things Work</i> and <i>How the World Works</i> .	W		●	●	●	£54		KimTec	(0202) 888873
Hutchinson Encyclopedia '95 (Issue 8)	Attica Cybernetics Updated version of the British multimedia encyclopedia with 34,000 articles, including 30 minutes of video clips, 180 sound clips, maps and a dictionary.	W		●	●	●	£58	★★★☆☆	Attica Cybernetics	(0865) 791346
Information Finder (Issue 8)	World Books A new version, with text and tables from the 22 volume <i>World Book Encyclopedia</i> , with 17,000 articles, a dictionary and maps.	D			●	●	£217	★★★★☆	World Books	(0892) 547 811
Justis Weekly Law	Context An authoritative legal reference, detailing the development of English Law since 1981.	D					£300		Context	071-267 8989
KGB-CIA World Factbook	Compton's New Media The KGB's perspective of the world prior to the collapse of the USSR, alongside de-classified files of the CIA.	W/D				●	£39		GEM	(0279) 442842
Languages of the World	NTC Publishing Dictionaries in 12 languages, fully cross-referenced for easy translation.	D					£75		FOS-CD	(0296) 682233
Market Power	Lotus/TDS Lists 400,000 key UK decision-makers, with company name, address, postcode, telephone and fax numbers.	D					£399		FOS-CD	(0296) 682233
Microsoft Bookshelf (Issue 2)	Microsoft A complete set of electronic reference books, with maps and animations to complement the texts.	D/W	●			●	£130	★★★☆☆	Microsoft	(0734) 270001
Multimedia World Factbook	Bureau Development 248 comprehensive country profiles, with numerous colour maps.	D			●	●	£69		Optech	(0252) 714340
New Grolier Encyclopedia (Issue 8)	Grolier All 21 volumes of the Academic Encyclopedia, with extensive sound and video clips.	D/W	●	●	●	●	£139	★★★☆☆	Software Toolworks	(0444) 246333
Oxford English Dictionary (Issue 1)	OUP The 2nd edition of the most authoritative English dictionary, with over 2,400,000 illustrative quotations.	W					£495	★★★★☆	OUP	(0865) 267979
Plant Doctor	Quanta Press A database of trees, flowers, shrubs and grasses, and the diseases that can affect them.	D				●	£35		Optech	(0252) 714340
TES BookFind	Head Software Details of 500,000 books, with full reviews from the <i>Times Educational Supplement</i> and other sources.	W					£Call		Head Software	(0883) 717 057



▲ Compton's Interactive



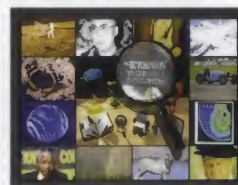
▲ Encarta '95



▲ Guinness Disc of Records



▲ How Computers Work



▲ Hutchinson '95



▲ Information Finder

Key: D – DOS W – Windows

Reference

Reference

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
Times 1993	News Multimedia	D/W				●	£175		News Multimedia	071-782 7401
Every 1993 edition of <i>The Times</i> and <i>The Sunday Times</i> . Special Education price: £104. Also available: year discs for '90, '91 and '91.										
The Hulton People Disc	Attica Cybernetics	W				●	£149		Attica Cybernetics	(0865) 791346
10,000 photographs of famous people, glossed with text.										
Toolworks Reference Library	Software Toolworks	D					£100		Software Toolworks	(0444) 246333
Fast and easy access to an electronic reference bookshelf.										
Warplanes (Issue 7)	Maris Multimedia	W	●	●	●	●	£55	★★★★☆	Mindscape	(0444) 246333
A comprehensive encyclopedia of military aircraft and aviation.										

Science

Science

Title	Publisher	Platform	Animation	Video	Sound	Pictures	Price	Rating	Contact	Phone
3D Body Adventure (Issue 4)	Knowledge Adventure	D	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Guildsoft	(0752) 606200
An educational game-based exploration of the body and its systems, in three dimensions.										
7 Natural Wonders	InterOptica	W	●	●	●	●	£74	★★★★☆	Softline	081-401 1234
Combining colourful video, photography and text, it covers seven incredible natural features like the Great Barrier Reef and Grand Canyon.										
A World Alive (Issue 5)	Voyager	W		●	●	●	£44	★★★★☆	Softline	081-401 1234
Commentary from James Earl Jones adds impact to this multimedia nature documentary.										
Beyond Planet Earth (Issue 5)	Discovery Channel	W		●	●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Computer Manuals	021-706 6000
Venture into space with the Discovery Channel, and investigate the planets of the solar system.										
Bug Adventure (Issue 7)	Knowledge Adventure	W	●		●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Guildsoft	(0752) 606200
The world of insects brought to life for children and parents.										
Creepy Crawlies (Issue 7)	Media Design	W	●	●	●	●	£30	★★★★☆	Psygnosis	051-709 5755
An investigation of insect biology with over 40 minutes of full-motion video, coupled with narration and full-colour images.										
Dangerous Creatures (Issue 7)	Microsoft	W	●	●	●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Microsoft	(0734) 270001
An excellent guide to dangerous animals on every continent, with colourful and well-filmed videos, and exhaustive info in the form of text and narration.										
Eyewitness Encyclopedia of Science (Issue 6)	Dorling Kindersley	W	●	●	●	●	£99	★★★★★	Dorling Kindersley	071-836 5411
The only disc we've given a perfect rating, this superbly illustrated interactive encyclopedia contains comprehensive information on all aspects of science.										
Interactive Periodic Table (Issue 1)	Attica Cybernetics	W	●	●	●	●	£99	★★★★☆	Attica Cybernetics	(0865) 791346
The presentation of scientific data is enhanced by a range of multimedia diversions.										
Interactive Space Encyclopedia (Issue 2)	Andromeda Interactive	W	●	●	●	●	£50	★★★★☆	Andromeda Interactive	(0235) 529595
Facts, figures, images, audio and animations with narrations by Patrick Moore.										
Mammalian Biology	Attica Cybernetics	W		●	●	●	£195		Attica Cybernetics	(0865) 791346
The full text, colour photographs, artwork and maps of all five volumes of Grizmek's <i>Encyclopedia of Mammals</i> .										
Mammals	National Geographic	D		●	●	●	£39		FOS-CD	(0296) 682233
A convenient multimedia resource on mammals and their environments.										
McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia of Science (Issue 7)	McGraw-Hill	W	●	●	●	●	£934	★★★★☆	McGraw-Hill	(0628) 23432
Everything you need to know about science and technology.										
Ocean Life (Issue 7)	Sumeria	W		●	●	●	\$50	★★★★☆	Sumeria	0101 415 9040880
QuickTime videos of reef life constitutes the majority of the disc, although it is rather lacking in large pictures and text.										
Redshift (Issue 2)	Maris Multimedia	W	●	●	●	●	£70	★★★★★	Maris Multimedia	071-488 1566
Photos, illustrations and animations provide an absorbingly detailed look at the solar system.										
Space Adventure (Issue 2)	Knowledge Adventure	D	●	●	●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Guildsoft	(0752) 606200
A multimedia guide to space travel and the planets of our solar system.										
Space Shuttle (Issue 3)	Software Toolworks	D/W	●	●	●	●	£17	★★★★☆	Digital Integration	(0276) 684959
A varied and detailed interactive guide to the Space Shuttle and its missions.										
Speed (Issue 5)	Knowledge Adventure	D	●	●	●	●	£45	★★★★☆	Guildsoft	(0752) 606200
A fast-paced look at the history and science of speed.										
The Ultimate Human Body (Issue 6)	Dorling Kindersley	W	●		●	●	£79	★★★★☆	Dorling Kindersley	071-836 5411
Illustration, animation and narration are combined in this detailed investigation of the structure and operation of the human body.										
The View From Earth (Issue 2)	Warner New Media	W	●		●	●	£41	★★★★☆	Time Warner	(0604) 602800
The solar system explored with impressive photographs, and hours of recorded narration.										
The Way Things Work (Issue 6)	Dorling Kindersley	W	●		●	●	£79	★★★★★	Dorling Kindersley	071-836 5411
Based on David Macaulay's book, this beautifully illustrated and well-organised disc excels as an interactive guide to inventions.										
Whales and Dolphins (Issue 7)	MDI	W	●	●	●	●	£30	★★★★☆	MDI	(0252) 737630
With four chapters – Intro, Body Plan, Ecology and Species, this provides details of 81 kinds of whales and dolphins.										



▲ Warplanes



▲ Bug Adventure



▲ Dangerous Creatures



▲ Eyewitness Encyclopedia



▲ McGraw-Hill Encyclopedia



▲ The Way Things Work

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Farewell!

Games are undergoing a metamorphosis.

Jon Smith believes critics are too ready to rap what's emerging before its wings have unfolded...

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They do go on, don't they? These jaded gamesplayers who constantly bemoan the lack of 'interactivity' in CD-ROM titles. For many months, reviewers have indicted CD-ROM games with a monotonous ferocity that has now infected all quarters of the industry, from the publishers to the consumers. Knocking CD-ROM has become something of a bandwagon; a soft target for fashionable cynics. Merely show them an animated intro sequence and they'll throw their hands in the air and try to tell you that everything's gone downhill since *Space Invaders*.

The fact of the matter is, I like animated intro sequences. I enjoy impressive graphical effects, and relish the cinematic potential of the medium. Yes, *Under A Killing Moon* has its problems, but I still had a whale of a time with it; I can't wait for *Wing Commander 3* next month, and *Myst* is, as near as dammit, the best thing ever.

The truth is, simply, that games are evolving. The kinds of games that we used to play – shoot-'em-ups, platform games, puzzle games and the like – are merging and mutating into new, untried

forms. And I, for one, am intensely glad; there's been a lot of dead wood in the games market recently, and a new broom should work wonders.

The prejudice arose when early titles – *The 7th Guest* being the most infamous example – promised a revolution in entertainment, then managed to deliver only part of their manifesto. No one would deny that ambitious games like *The Lawnmower Man* and *Quantum Gate* were seriously flawed, in both

conception and execution. But, come off it guys, people are learning from these mistakes. And what's more, they're learning quickly.

I believe that, entering 1995, we are about to reach a watershed.

Experiments with CD-ROM as a gaming medium are meeting with more and more success, both critically and commercially. As the proliferation of drives increases, it is inevitable that CD-ROM games will come of age; that the much-vaunted 'interactive movie' will finally become a successful reality.

Will it come from a major corporation, or a small band of outlaws? Will it be one on disc or nine? I don't know. But when it gets here, it'll be great.

And I'm going to be first in the queue to play it. **End**



This issue of CD-ROM Today was brought to you by the campaign for lower shelves in supermarkets and a lot of people called Andy.

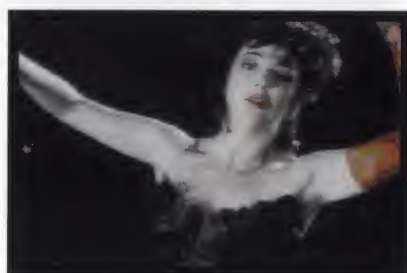
Handy, huh?

Next issue

The February edition of CD-ROM Today will be on sale from **Thursday, January 19th**. So if you want to keep up to date with what's going on in the world of multimedia, not to mention the best titles around, don't miss it!



▲ **KIDS**— This is Henry. Along with his dog, Frank, he's your guide through *Counting on Frank*, an educational game which aims to "stamp out math anxiety". We'll review this, and many other great new discs for kids, in our in-depth feature next month.



▲ **MPEG** — From Kate Bush to Sharon Stone, from Daffy Duck to James Bond, we look at the hardware and software of Video CD.



▲ **CYBERWAR** — An ambitious mix of superb animation, live-action video and gameplay, *Cyberwar* will be only one of many amazing new games to come under scrutiny, along with titles like *Wing Commander 3*, *Dragon Lore*, *Rise of the Robots* and *Noctropolis*.

This is only the merest taste of next month's jam-packed issue; there'll be many more reviews and, of course, all the usual news and features.

So don't miss out! Reserve a copy at your newsagent, or see our subscription offers on page 98.

**Don't forget:
19th January 1995**

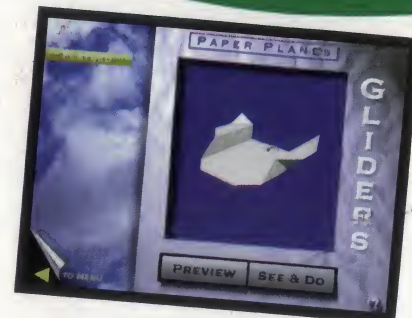
What's on your disc?

Now we're 100% PC, there's even more great stuff on our coverdisc. So, whether you want science, nature, reference, education, utilities, or games, look no further than CD-ROM Today!



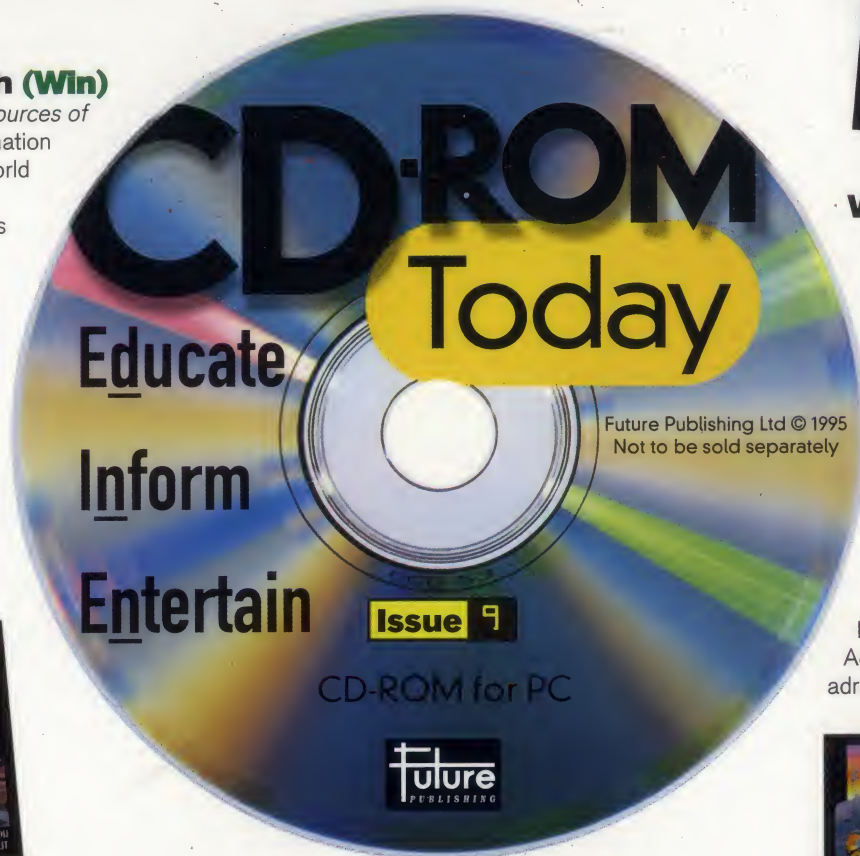
- 1 Learn Your PC (Win)**
Three levels of tuition make this multimedia training course ideal for both beginners and relatively advanced users to get the most out of their PCs. This interactive demo includes a vast amount of information from the full edition.

- 6 Paper Planes (Win)**
Technology comes to the paper plane with this new CD from Novell. Our demo includes full step-by-step instructions for building one of the gliders.



- 2 Sources of Faith (Win)**
New from KimTec UK, *Sources of Faith* provides a wealth of information and background on the major world religions. The enlightening interactive demo version features the entire section on Islam.

- 3 Retribution (DOS)**
Retribution is a sci-fi adventure that takes place in the future golden age of humankind. But the earthlings have been cruelly hoodwinked, and this fully-playable demo gives you the chance to begin the retribution.



- 7 Wrath of the Gods (Win)**
Bizarre use of video footage and colloquial accents makes this an adventure game with a twist. Step back in time to the land of the Ancient Greeks and relive a legend.

- 8 Cyclemania (DOS)**
All the thrills and spills of motorcycle racing are recreated by this fully-playable demo of Accolade's new disc. Feel the adrenaline rush!



- 4 Memphis Math (Win)**
Can maths be fun? *Memphis Math* is a lively new educational adventure game from Novell, set in the mysterious depths of Egyptian vaults. Explore the pyramids, solving mathematical puzzles to progress through the levels of this playable demo.

- 9 BC Racers (DOS)**
The wild and wacky world of prehistoric racing bursts onto the screen with this new game from Core Design. The demo features one and two-player modes.

- 10 One Must Fall (DOS)**
One of the biggest shareware games ever produced, this new offering from Epic MegaGames puts you in confrontation with futuristic, giant robots.



- 5 Shakespeare on Disc (Win DOS)**
We have a vast collection from the works of William Shakespeare. They're stored as plain text files for use with DOS or Windows word processors, so you can search for passages and quotes, or cut and paste sections into your own documents. Tragedies, comedies, histories, sonnets and poems... they're all here!

- 11 CD Direct Catalogue (Win)**
This comprehensive catalogue from CD Direct is a huge database of software titles for the PC.

LOOK! Please see the details of system requirements which are on Page 6, inside the magazine!